

MADHYA PRADESH

In Madhya Pradesh today 40,000 sq. miles of the State territory is declared "dry".

Prohibition was launched in Madhya Pradesh on April 1, 1938 and the law relating thereto was made applicable to 9,333 sq. miles. The area was extended on January 1, 1939 to 15,277 sq. miles and the districts of Akola and Wardha were declared dry. On January 1, 1940 one more step was taken towards the fulfilment of the prohibition policy by applying the law to 22,287 sq. miles. When on October 1, 1946, the then Congress Governments widened the dry area further, one-third of the then territory of the State was covered.

The policy was revised in accordance with the recommendations of the Prohibition Enquiry Committee. A system of rationing has been introduced in some parts of the State since February 1, 1953 but the districts which were already "dry" continued to be "dry".

The sale of *charas* has been banned in the State since January 1, 1939.

A 'Prohibition Week' inaugurated by the Chief Minister was observed all over the State from August 15, 1953. On October 2, 1953, women's organisations in the State observed the Prohibition Day.

In order to prevent misuse of alcoholic tinctures, the State Assembly passed an Amendment Bill in its October Session.

MADRAS

Madras was the first State to introduce total prohibition which has been in force in that State since the 2nd October, 1948.

Though here and there, there may be some unsocial elements hoodwinking the prohibition law for their own personal gains, the street brawls which were very common formerly owing to drunkenness have disappeared now. With the progress of time, prohibition has proved to be a boon to the poor and helped many ruined families, socially, economically and morally.

The Co-operative Department has been in charge of ameliorative work connected with prohibition since 1948. The several activities undertaken helped to promote general rural uplift and to better the socio-economic condition of the ex-tappers in particular. The palm jaggery co-operatives have been providing ex-tappers with employment. There were 1527 jaggery co-operative societies on the 1st December, 1953 with 1.63 lakhs of members and Rs. 6.96 lakhs of paid-up share capital. They provided employment to 1.25 lakhs of ex-toddy tappers. They produced and sold jaggery for Rs. 86.96 lakhs and Rs. 108.80 lakhs,

respectively, in the year 1953. There are also 3 jaggery marketing federations in the State, one each in the district of Thrunelveli, Coimbatore and South Kanara.

MYSORE

Prohibition is in force in six districts and four taluks in the State. Permission for tapping in the prohibition areas has led to malpractices and consequent ineffectiveness of prohibition to some extent. In order to make prohibition effective, it is proposed not to allow tapping in the prohibition areas.

ORISSA

As a first step the Orissa Government introduced rationing in opium in 1938 in Balasore when the First Congress Ministry was in office. The matter was pursued again in 1949 under the 10 year plan of the Government of India. Prohibition of alcoholic drinks was introduced in Orissa in the year 1947-48 after the Congress Ministry came into power.

Due to prohibition in the rural areas of Cuttack, Puri and Balasore and in Puri town and enforcement of prohibition measures in other districts Government lost a revenue of Rs. 6 lakhs in 1953-54. In addition, Rs. 10 lakhs on account of opium rationing. But the impact which prohibition has produced on the life of the people previously addicted to drinks and drugs has encouraged Government to move steadily forward. It has now been recognised that prohibition has not only a negative policy but it has also a constructive side.

PUNJAB

In Punjab complete prohibition was enforced in the Rohtak district in 1948. Government is now considering its extension to Gurgaon district.

SAURASHTRA

In Saurashtra the amendments to the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949, have been adopted.

While it is true that Government revenues are adversely affected by prohibition, it has at the same time been acknowledged that prohibition has done a lot of good to the drinking classes. A number of old addicts have, as reported, given up their drinking habits and are now able to spare money for their families.

UTTAR PRADESH

In Uttar Pradesh prohibition remains in force in eleven districts. For administrative reasons, progress had to be somewhat gradual because a mere declaration of prohibition was not by itself enough unless the

idea of temperance also got firmly established. Stress, therefore, continues on temperance activities and propaganda. A survey has been made on a random sampling basis of conditions prevailing in dry districts and its results may help in determining the future course of action in respect of the prohibition programme.

VINDHYA PRADESH

In Vindhya Pradesh the use of opium is being gradually stopped. Every year there is a reduction of 10 per cent in the quota of opium, so that by 1959 the supply of opium will be completely stopped.

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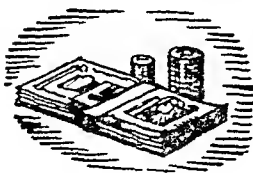
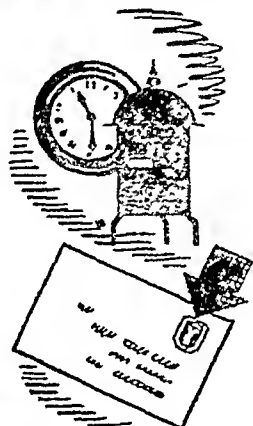
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CHAPTER X

TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS

In modern times the advancement of a State is closely linked, among other things, with the development of its system of transport and communications. While India is proud of having a fairly good system (the Railway system alone being the largest and the most developed in Asia) there is still considerable scope for improvement in many directions so as to fall in line with the most advanced countries of the world. Conscious of this fact, Government have been taking steps to intensify the programme of construction of roads, development of Railways, Aviation, Posts and Telegraph facilities, etc.

RAILWAYS

The administration of Indian Railways during the seventh year of Independence maintained the standards of the previous year in all aspects of railway working.

The volume of passenger traffic handled during the year ending March, 1954, was practically the same as in the previous year, there being a slight increase in goods traffic during the year 1953-54.

The financial position of the Indian Railways was on the whole satisfactory during the year 1953-54. According to the Revised Budget Estimates, the gross receipts of the Railways amount to Rs. 272.00 crores, the small increase as compared with the previous year being due to the Kumbh Mela traffic and improved goods earnings. The operating expenses during 1953-54 amounted to Rs. 197.63 crores, and including the appropriation to the Depreciation Reserve Fund of Rs. 30 crores, the total working expenses amounted to Rs. 228 crores. After making allowance for the miscellaneous receipts and expenditure and the payment of Rs. 34.46 crores as dividend to General Revenues, the surplus for the year would stand at Rs. 3.18 crores. The estimated balances in the reserve funds of the Railways at the end of 1953-54 amounted to a total of Rs. 163.66 crores, the Depreciation Reserve Fund standing at Rs. 107.83 crores, the Revenue Reserve Fund at Rs. 37.18 crores and the Development Fund at Rs. 18.62 crores. These substantial balances were left after a withdrawal of Rs. 55 crores during the year.

The construction of 5 new lines was taken in hand during 1953-54. Of these, satisfactory progress is being made on the construction of Champa-Kobra line. Work on Gandhidham-Kandla link and Khandwa-Hingoli link has already commenced. The work on Gop-Katkola and

Gua-Manoharpur line is expected to start in the near future. Among other constructions, Chunar-Rohetiganj line has been opened for goods traffic and is expected to be ready for passenger traffic shortly. The diversion of railway line via Chandigarh, the new capital of Punjab, has been completed as also the doubling of the Bundi-Barkhera line. A portion of Sanganer Town-Toda Rai Singh extension, viz., Sanganer to Tordi Sagar has also been completed and opened for traffic. The Madhopura-Murliganj line is expected to be completed during 1954-55. Out of the 95 miles of Quilon-Ernakulam Railway, the Ernakulam-Kottayam Section, 37 miles long, is expected to be opened for traffic in 1955. On the Ganga Bridge Project at Mohambeh, arrangements for collection of materials and equipment required for the construction and the ancillary training work have also been completed.

As regards the dismantled lines, six lines have been restored during 1953-54.

The progress made in the rehabilitation of railway assets during the period under review was satisfactory. From August, 1953, to the end of March, 1954, 96 locomotives were placed on line, of which 58 were turned out in Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, 13 in TELCO works and 25 were imported from abroad. During the same period 554 coaches were placed on line, of which 77 were imported and the rest produced in railway workshops and Hindustan Aircraft, Ltd. As regards wagons, 5,476 were placed on line, of which 4,817 were produced within the country and 659 imported from abroad. The provision made for rolling-stock reflects a heavier programme for procurement than has been usual in the past. On 31st March, 1954, 1,283 locomotives and 1,360 coaches were on order. Larger numbers of rolling-stock are planned for the coming year.

The Railway Administrations have continued their efforts to reduce overcrowding in passenger trains. Even though passenger traffic has tended to be no higher than in the previous years, new trains have been added and existing train services extended wherever possible. During the period April to November, 1953, 190 new trains were introduced and the runs of 126 trains were extended involving an increase daily of 7,450 train miles on broad gauge and 4,656 train miles on the metre gauge and 397 train miles on the narrow gauge. As regards amenities to passengers, new coaches of the Hindustan Aircraft, Ltd., and the Swiss make continued to provide improved sitting accommodation. Seats have been widened and made more comfortable. Fans, better lights and improved lavatories have been provided. Certain minimum amenities like waiting halls, drinking water supply, improved platform surfacing are being gradually provided at all stations.



Chittaranjan Locomotive Workshop. A general view of one of the assembly shops.

Certain concessions to passengers were introduced during the year. Circular Tour Tickets for distances of 1,500 miles and over at concessional fares of $\frac{3}{4}$ the public tariff rate for second, inter and third classes were issued. These concession tickets will apply not only to the standard circular tours notified by Railways but also to circular tours suggested by parties themselves and approved by Railways. Round tour tickets for students available for 45 days at the usual concessional rates (when they undertake travel in parties of not less than four instead of in parties of not less than ten as at present, were also issued. Further, Students Concessional Monthly Tickets in non-suburban areas for students proceeding daily from their homes to attend schools or colleges and returning therefrom were introduced. These monthly tickets will be issued from stations not more than 30 miles distant from the station of the school or college attended on payment of 12 single journey fares. Hill station return ticket concession at $1\frac{1}{2}$ single journey fares to certain selected hill stations during April to October for second, inter and third classes (available for three months from all stations from which the chargeable distance is 150 miles or more, were extended. Concessional rail-cum-road and rail-cum-air return tickets for first, second, inter and third classes from certain selected stations to Srinagar at 1.1|3rd fares were also made available. Besides these concessions, the power given to the General Managers to introduce return tickets in their zones continues to be vested in them and, wherever practicable, they will introduce them.

During the year, the relations between the Railway workers and the Railways were cordial. An important healthy development was the formation of an organisation known as the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen of the integration of the two Federations, viz., All-India Railwaymen Federation and the Indian National Railway Workers' Federation. Amenities to staff received particular attention. Increased housing, extension of medical facilities and provision of new schools were some of the features of the welfare schemes implemented during the year. The Budget for 1954-55 includes a provision of Rs. 10.05 crores for staff amenities.

ROADS, ROAD TRANSPORT, NATIONAL HIGHWAYS, Et.

Extensive improvement in the major ports, increase in Indian shipping tonnage, a rise in tourist traffic and the lengthening of India's road communications are the notable features of the activities in the field of Transport during the year 1953-54.

A sum of Rs. 10 crores has been provided in the Central Sector of the Plan specifically for the development of State roads of inter-State or economic importance not already provided for in the State plans during the period. With a view to facilitating

planning and preparation of projects and ensuring that the entire amount of the grant of Rs. 10 crores is usefully spent during the current Plan period, a programme of road development in States costing about Rs. 20 crores has been approved. The total grant to be sanctioned by the Central Government would be restricted to the amount of Rs. 10 crores only during the current plan period, and the balance would be sanctioned during the first two years of the second 5-Year Plan period.

Extensions were made to the national highways and other roads in the country. From April, 1951 to 1953, 263 miles of new sections were added on national highways, about 1,800 miles of existing sections improved and the construction of 19 bridges completed. In addition, construction of about 560 miles of missing links, improvement of 1,800 miles of existing national highways and construction of 43 bridges are in progress. During 1952-53, a sum of Rs. 378.55 lakhs was spent on the maintenance of national highways while the anticipated expenditure during 1953-54 is about Rs. 386 lakhs.

An expanded Five-Year National Highway Programme, including works of a total cost of Rs. 54 crores as against Rs. 40 crores provided for in the original programme, has now been prepared. The actual expenditure during the current plan period will be restricted to the ceiling of Rs. 27 crores approved by the Planning Commission.

Under the expanded programme, it is proposed to take up the construction of 1250 miles of new lengths (missing links), 73 new major bridges and the improvement of 6,000 miles of existing roads in the National Highway System, as against 925 miles of new construction, 68 new major bridges, and 3000 miles of improvement of the existing roads originally planned. The targets to be completed by the end of 1955-56, i.e. the construction of 640 miles of new lengths, 40 new major bridges, and the improvement of 2500 miles of existing roads, however, remain unchanged.

During the year under report, the progress on the National Highways has been fairly steady and satisfactory.

Roads were improved in Part 'C' and Part 'D' States and in the tribal areas. The expenditure ceilings fixed for road development in these areas were raised and it is proposed to spend Rs. 6.68 crores as against Rs. 6.28 crores provided originally in the Five-Year Plan.

Seven important works, each costing over Rs. 1 lakh, were completed at a total cost of Rs. 12.77 lakhs during 1953. Progress on the construction of the Agartala-Assam border road has been satisfactory despite several handicaps like the acute shortage of labour, difficulty of transporting construction material and food for labour to the work sites, etc. The entire road is jeepable in fair weather and the first miles from Agartala are fit for 5-ton vehicles. The second phase

of the programme of asphaltting the road will be taken up after the monsoon of 1954. A stretch of 37 miles of the Passi-Badarpur road was completed and work is in progress on about 45 miles. This road, when completed, will provide a direct connection from Shillong to Agartala.

The provision originally made for road development in the North-East Frontier Agency was increased from Rs. 135 lakhs to Rs. 185 lakhs in order to develop certain roads to higher standards than were previously provided for. With a view to ensuring full utilisation of this amount by the end of 1955-56, it is proposed to revise the Plan for road development in the North-East Frontier Agency on the same basis as is being done in the case of the national highways and the other roads in Part 'C' and Part 'D' States.

It was stated in the annual report that on the pattern of the 5-year National Highway Programme, the 5-Year Road Programme of the Part 'C' & 'D' States, Sikkim, and the N.E.F. Agency in Assam were also being expanded so as to bring the total cost of the works to be sanctioned during the current Plan period to twice the ceilings fixed in the Plan, the actual expenditure during the current Plan period being restricted to the approved ceilings. Proposals for the expansion of the existing programme relating to Bhopal, Delhi, Manipur, Tripura, Vindhya Pradesh and Sikkim have been approved so far. Proposals for the expansion of the Programme of Ajmer, Kutch, Himachal Pradesh, Bilaspur and the N.E.F. Agency are under examination and decisions are expected shortly.

The construction of the Banihal Tunnel through the Pir Panjal range in Jammu and Kashmir State which is estimated to cost about Rs. 3 crores was taken in hand last year. The survey of this project was completed and the first phase, namely, drilling the pilot heading, will be started shortly. The tunnel, when completed, will be one of the longest road tunnels in the world and will provide all weather road communication between Jammu and Srinagar, which is at present cut off for four months of the year when the pass is covered with snow.

A Study Group consisting of representatives of the Planning Commission, the Ministries of Transport, Railways, Production, Commerce and Industry, Food and Agriculture and Labour has been set up to examine and make recommendations on certain aspects of planning capacity to meet the increasing demands for transport arising out of the implementation of the Five-Year Plan.

The implementation of the recommendations of the Delhi Road Transport Authority Enquiry Committee resulted in considerable improvements in the bus services. Eighty-eight old buses were condemned, 64 new buses were put on the road and 70 more will be added

to the fleet shortly, bringing the total to 316. The construction of 41 bus queue shelters has been sanctioned and the construction of two depots and one central workshop at an estimated cost of Rs. 20 lakhs is expected to be completed shortly. A loan of Rs. 45 lakhs was advanced to the Authority for purchase of 70 new Diesel buses and construction of workshop and depots. A profit of Rs. 2.97 lakhs is expected during the year 1954 as against Rs. 3.99 lakhs during the previous year. 1954-55 Budget provision has been made for a loan to the Delhi Road Transport Authority of Rs. 70 lakhs for the purchase of 140 new Diesel buses and construction of office and Depot buildings.

CIVIL AVIATION

The most significant development in the field of Civil Aviation in India during the year 1953 was the decision of the Government of India to nationalise the Air Transport Industry and a Bill to this effect was passed by Parliament and received the President's assent on May 23, 1953. As a result of this enactment two Corporations, viz., Air India International and Indian Airlines, one for operating long-distance international services and the other for undertaking operations inside the country and to neighbouring States, were established with effect from the 15th June, 1953. The inauguration of nationalised air transport services marked an important event in the history of India.

Prior to India's Independence her external services were confined only to the neighbouring countries of Burma and Ceylon. Today, Indian air services fly to Aden, Bangkok, Cairo, Djakarta, Dusseldorf, Geneva, Kabul, Kandahar, London, Nairobi, Paris, Rome and Singapore as well as to our neighbouring countries of Burma, Ceylon, Nepal and Pakistan. Air India International have also planned to operate a service from Bombay to Singapore and another from Bombay to Tokyo via Calcutta, Bangkok and Hongkong.

In 1953, Indian aircraft flew over 19 million miles on scheduled services carrying nearly 400,000 passengers. More than 92 million lbs. of cargo and mail were uplifted. On non-scheduled services more than 4 million miles were flown. Ninety-two thousand passengers and 62 million lbs. of freight were carried. Thus in 1953 Indian aircraft flew over 23 million miles, carrying nearly half a million passengers and 154 million lbs. of cargo and mail. Seventy-seven aerodromes are controlled and operated by the Civil Aviation Department of the Government of India. Three of these aerodromes Bombay (Santa Cruz), Calcutta (Dum Dum) and Delhi (Palam) are International airports. Government sanction has been received for the construction of new aerodromes at Kandla in Kutch, Udaipur in Rajasthan, Chandigarh,

the capital of the Punjab and Haldwani in Uttar Pradesh. The construction of an aerodrome at Shillong, the Capital of Assam State, is also being investigated.

In order to ensure the safety of aircraft operations, air traffic control and radio communication and navigation facilities were provided at North Lakhimpur, Khowai, Kailashahar, Belonia and Kamalpur. Steps have been taken to introduce radio frequencies allotted by the International Tele-communication Union for Communication between aircraft and ground stations.

The 12th and 13th meetings of the Communications Consultative Committee for Civil Aviation in India were held at New Delhi in November, 1953 and April, 1954, respectively.

The Civil Aviation Training Centre at Allahabad is administered by the Civil Aviation Department and provides Traffic Control, Aeronautical Communications and Air Navigation. Since August 15, 1953, 126 trainees qualified at the Centre in various courses.

Eleven Flying Clubs have been subsidised by the Government of India. The Clubs trained 20 pilots upto 'B' licence standard and 102 upto 'A' licence standard from the 15th August, 1953 to 31st March, 1954.

The two Gliding Clubs, Indian Gliding Association, Poona and the Delhi Gliding Club, New Delhi, are also subsidised by the Government. The Indian Gliding Association, Poona, trained 32 pilots for 'B' certificate, 24 pilots for 'C' certificates and 4 pilots for 'CC' certificates since 15th August, 1953. The Association has been taken over by Government with effect from the end of April, 1954.

In November, 1946 India had concluded an air transport agreement with the U.S.A. The terms of this agreement were found to be disadvantageous to the Air India International which began operating long-distance international air services since June, 1948. As informal discussions held in November, 1951 to amend this agreement did not lead to any conclusive results, the Government of India asked for a formal consultation with the Government of the U.S.A. These consultations were held in New Delhi from May to August, 1953, in a frank and cordial atmosphere. As, however, no mutually agreeable formula could be agreed upon, consultations came to an end on the 5th August, 1953. The Government of India came to the conclusion that to protect the legitimate interests of their international airlines, a fresh agreement should be negotiated. Consequently, the Government of India gave notice to the Government of U.S.A. on the 14th January, 1954 to terminate the Indo-U.S. Air Transport Agreement one year after the date of receipt of the notice by the Government of the U.S.A.

OVERSEAS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

In the past political context, India's foreign communication services were obviously built up to meet the needs of speedy contact between India and U.K., both for commercial and political requirements. With the Nationalisation of these services and India becoming a Sovereign Republic, the needs have changed. The present need is for direct communication with all important countries and her neighbouring countries in India. Prior to the achievement of Independence, India was operating, besides Submarine Cable Telegraph Services, only 6 Radio Services. After India attained her Independence, about 20 additional Radio Services have been added.

To provide further facilities a Five-Year Plan estimated to cost one crore of rupees has been sanctioned. The Plan covers modernizing and expanding its existing Bombay and Delhi radio centres and opening similar centres at Calcutta and Madras to enable foreign telegrams to and from these regions to be disposed of with the utmost expedition by eliminating dependance on several hundred miles of tropical landlines. The expansion plan, when completed, will give India four independent foreign radio centres, namely, Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and Madras, which will normally work as complementary to one another and be powerful enough to look after emergencies.

The Plan is already under execution, the Calcutta Centre opened in March, 1953, being the first step. Calcutta and roundabout are responsible for about 20 million words a year amounting to nearly 30% of India's foreign telegraph wordage. It is indeed a noteworthy factor that since India became a Republic many countries have been seeking to establish direct radio services with India.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

The P. & T. Department implemented its policy of providing every village with a population of 2,000 or more with a post office. It has set a further target of opening 10,000 more post offices within a period of 3 years from 1-4-53. Under this scheme Post offices will be opened in groups of villages with an aggregate population of 2,000 or more and at the headquarters of administrative units like Tehsils, Talukas or Thanas, provided the annual loss does not exceed Rs. 750[-. A more liberal policy is being followed in opening post offices in Backward Areas in Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, etc. In Addition, the P. & T. Department is always prepared to open post offices if they are expected to be remunerative or if a non-returnable contribution is offered by interested parties.

The All Up Air Mail Scheme under which first class mails are carried by air is being increasingly used with the result that the transit

times of mails have been very greatly reduced. Vast improvement in the efficiency of postal services has resulted from this.

There has been a great development in telegraph facilities provided by the P. & T. The conditions for the opening of new telegraph offices have been greatly liberalised. As a general rule a telegraph office will be provided in all towns with a population of more than 5,000. All the District Headquarter stations will be provided with telegraph facilities irrespective of any consideration of loss involved. The limit of loss for the Sub-Divisional and Tehsil Station (and also Thana stations in States without Tehsils) has been increased to Rs. 1,000]. The total number of telegraph offices is now 8,620.

Modernisation of the important Central Telegraph Offices has been provided for in the "Five-Year Plan". By the use of Tape Relay systems it is hoped to reduce considerably the delays in the transmission of telegrams. Some equipment has been obtained and installed at the Bombay C.T.O. The question of introducing the system at New Delhi, Calcutta and other principal telegraph offices is under consideration of the Department.

With effect from 1st December, 1953, Photo-telegram service has been introduced for Denmark, Greece, Germany (German Federal Republic), Italy, Portugal and Switzerland in addition to Great Britain, U.S.A (New York only), Sanfrancisco, Australia, Egypt, Montreal (Canada) and Union of South Africa. "To Follow" service in foreign telegrams has been introduced with effect from 1st December, 1953. This service provides the sender of a foreign telegram who is not quite certain about the exact place at which the addressee will be found, to give various addresses at which the message is to be successively presented.

Hindi and Indian Languages telegrams service in Devanagari Script was extended to several stations and figures for the year show that the public are making more use of this service. During the year under review 18,939 telegrams were booked against 7,801 last year. The number of offices where this service is now available is 524. Arrangements are in progress to extend the service to more places by "Phonocom" over short-distance trunk telephone circuits.

Telegraphic Money Order service in Hindi has been made available in U.P. and Bihar and is expected to be extended further to other places in the near future. A new system of registration of telegraphic addresses in Devanagari script from 1st January, 1953, has been permitted.

Telephone Facilities: In the matter of providing telephone facilities also the Department is making great strides. After Independence the number of telephone in India has almost doubled. During the last year telephone exchanges were rehabilitated or expanded at 62 places. The

laying of additional lines is in progress in important cities like Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Bihar Coal field area, Ahmedabad, etc.; in 11 place automatisations of the existing manual exchanges has been taken up. During 1954-55 it is proposed to instal 50 carrier systems.

A steady increase in the number of trunk calls will be noticeable from year to year. Whereas it was 4.4 millions in 1948-49, it is estimated to go up to 12.8 millions in 1953-54. This shows the increasing use made of the trunk services in India.

Rural areas are also being given telephone facilities by opening public call offices. As a matter of policy, all District Headquarters will be given trunk facilities irrespective of any consideration of loss.

The P. & T. Department is not neglecting areas which present difficulties of constructing physical lines. Several places in India have been connected by Radio Telephone circuits. The adoption of mechanical aids in regard to certain items of works is now receiving consideration.

Two British Experts were seconded to the P. & T. under the Technical Assistance Scheme of the Colombo Plan for 9 months to draw up a plan for the mechanisation of the postal services. Recommendations have been made by these experts; they are being followed up by a special officer of the Department.

Indian Telephone Industry continued to maintain progress in the manufacture of tele-communication equipment in the country. During March, 1953, the production of Telephone instruments reached the figure of 1,000 telephone per week which is twice the target originally set up for 1954-55. It is expected that by March, 1956, the annual production would be 40,000 automatic telephone exchange lines and 60,000 telephone instruments. During 1953-54 the production cost of manufactured goods for sale was Rs. 120,00,000/- as compared to Rs. 51,61,726/- during 1952-53. During 1954-55 this figure is expected to be Rs. 160,00,000/-.

Savings Bank: The Post Office Savings Bank is one of the agency functions of the post office which benefits a large mass of the people of this country. The P. & T. is investigating the possibilities of making transactions more and more easy in large towns. A system of issuing "Tokens" to depositors is being introduced as an experimental measure in Bombay, Calcutta, Ahmedabad and Kanpur Head offices.

At its Training Centres at Jabbalpur technical personnel are being given training. The construction of a new building for the Tele-Communication Training Centre at Jabbalpur has made considerable progress. It would be fitted with the latest type of equipment and

when ready this new Centre would perhaps be the largest and the most modern institution of its kind in Asia. The P. & T. Training Centre opened at Saharanpur in April, 1951, has so far trained about 2,500 candidates. Additional training centres are also proposed to be opened at various places in India.

The Centenary of the First issue of the India Postage Stamp falls in October, 1954 and it has been decided to celebrate the occasion in a befitting manner.

METEOROLOGY

The India Meteorological Department is responsible for providing weather services to Aviation, Shipping and Ports, Agriculture, Railways, Irrigation and various other interests and to the public. The principal offices which provide such weather service are the Central Weather Office at Poona and the Regional Meteorological Offices at Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Madras and Nagpur. To provide the basic observational data which are required for the weather forecasting service, the department maintains a network which now consists of 334 Surface Observatories, 49 Pilot Balloon Observatories, 12 Radiosonde Stations and 28 Current Weather Observatories. Besides, about 96 ships of Indian Registration have been equipped with meteorological instruments to service as mobile observatories during their cruise in the high seas. During the year under review the network of observatories was further improved by the establishment of 7 Surface and 2 Current Weather Observatories. Steps were in progress for improving the Meteorological Organisation in Assam and North-East Frontier. The requirements of aviators were catered for at all aerodromes throughout the year and weather bulletins to shipping were broadcast through the coastal wireless stations at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras twice daily—as a routine and more frequently whenever there were any storm and depression in the Bay of Bengal or in the Arabian Sea. On such occasions warnings were issued to the ports concerned. In land warnings for storms, heavy rainfall and low temperature were issued to about 855 addresses in the warning lists of the five Regional Meteorological offices. For the general public weather reports were issued regularly through the All-India Radio and the Press. The Department maintains two workshops at New Delhi and Poona where various meteorological instruments required by the service are manufactured. During the year additional sensitive seismographs were installed at the Central Seismological Observatory at Shillong and a Seismological Observatory was started at Dehra Dun.

PORTS, SHIPPING AND LIGHTHOUSE, Etc.

The construction of the New Marine Oil Terminal at Bombay Port costing about Rs. 7 crores is in progress. Government have advanced a loan of Rs. 3 crores for this scheme.

Except for Calcutta, the other major ports of Bombay, Madras and Cochin anticipate surpluses in their budgets.

The main harbour works at Kandla estimated to cost Rs. 6.95 crores commenced from September, 1953 are expected to be completed by the end of 1956.

Lighthouse Department: The Lighthouse Department was separated from the Directorate-General of Shipping on the 1st July, 1953 and is working as an independent department under the administrative control of the Ministry of Transport.

To meet the expenditure for the development of lighthousing and for improvements to navigational aids, the rates of light dues were increased with effect from June, 1953 from 1½ annas to 3 annas per ton on ships other than sailing ships and from 6 pies to one anna per ton on sailing ships.

The construction of new towers and staff quarters at Perotan, Dolphin's Nose, Korlai Fort and Bhalkal are progressing and arrangements for starting work on Okha, Uttan, Mangrol and Pentakotta are nearing completion. A second-hand ship, M.V. 'Bodcock', has been purchased by this department at a cost of £50,000 for tending the lights on the coasts of India.

A novel type of electric flasher for use in the lighthouses has been invented and has proved very successful.

Tourist Traffic: Tourist traffic rose from 25,448 in 1952 to 28,060 in 1953. Out of the latter figure, 6,206 were Americans. Foreign exchange amounting to Rs. 250 lakhs was earned in 1952. Figures for 1953 are not yet available but are expected to be 15 to 20 per cent higher.

New Tourist Information Offices have been opened at Srinagar and Banaras, thus bringing the total to 7 tourist offices in India and one abroad. It is proposed to open 3 more offices abroad and 5 in India during the year 1954-55. A large variety of tourist publicity material consisting of books, pamphlets, folders, posters, calendars, picture post cards, models and films in colour have been produced and distributed abroad and in India.

AJMER

There are at present 126 Buses, 3 Contract Carriages and 25 Motor Cabs, 94 Public Carriers, 43 Private Carriers in operation in this State. A scheme for the formation of Road Transport Corporation in this State with a capital outlay of Rs. 19 lakhs is under the consideration of Government. In the first stage, it is proposed to operate passenger services on ten important routes covering mileage of 275.

ASSAM

During the year under review Government of Assam have completed nationalisation of motor transport over a total of 600 miles of important highways of the State taking over two more new routes, i.e. Dibrugarh-Saikhowaghat Route and Dhubri-Jogighopa Route covering a mileage of 131 miles. Besides running motor transport from Pandu|Gauhati, the rail head in Assam to Shillong, the Capital of the State, on monopolistic basis for transport of both passenger and Goods, Assam State Transport Passenger services are now running from Dhubri to Saikhowaghat touching almost all important towns of the State on the south bank of the Brahmaputra, e.g. Dhubri, Goalpara, Gauhati, Nowgong, Silghat, Jorhat, Sibsagar, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and Saikhowaghat.

Now 287 vehicles, comprising of 14 Cars, 165 Buses (of which 225 Diesel and rest Petrol) and 108 Trucks and Vans are operating on the nationalised routes, handling a total of 8,500 passengers and 7,000 maunds of goods and luggage on an average every day.

The Assam State Transport is offering transport service on usual fare and freight in better coaches providing regular stations and waiting rooms at all important places and ensuring running of services as per prescribed time-table, prohibiting crowding in buses to any extent.

The Nationalisation have found provision for employment of 1500 people of the State in different categories of services, and as the services are conducted on commercial principles, they have rendered a net return of profit to the provincial exchequer of Rs. 15,72,000|- during 1952-53, and Rs. 62,88,327|- since commencement of nationalisation upto 31-3-53 against a capital investment of Rs. 66,71,400|- only upto 31-3-54.

BIHAR

The Five-Year Plan has provided for the taking over of 2,420 miles of road out of which 2,128 miles are to be metalled and 292 to remain unmetalled but to be improved on the completion of the Plan. The total estimated cost of this development is Rs. 12.75 crores while the total amount provided for in the Five-Year Plan is only Rs. 7.25 crores. The expenditure up to the end of 1952-54 was Rs. 5.85 crores, leaving a balance of Rs. 1.40 which will be completely spent up by the middle of 1954-55.

It has become necessary to expand the State Highway Programme in the first Five-Year Plan period. This will be done with the grant of about Rs. 1 crore and a loan of Rs. 2.75 crores from the Government of India. In addition, a sum of Rs. 22.64 lakhs is provided for during the year 1954-55 for the improvement of roads out of allocations from the Central Road Fund. I

in the sugar factory areas during the next two years of the Plan at an estimated cost of about Rs. 75 lakhs.

Upto the end of 1952-53, 1,165 miles of roads had been improved, of which 800 miles had also been blacktopped. By the end of 1953-54, about 1,450 miles of roads will be improved. The expenditure upto the end of 1953-54 will be Re. 5.85 crores, leaving a balance of Rs. 1.40 crores. The balance of the amount is expected to be completely spent by the middle of the year 1954-55.

The year 1953-54 saw the completion of the Akharaghat Bridge over Burhi Gandak on the Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi road. The Kiul Bridge on Sikandara-Jamun Road, the Anjan Bridge on Jamui-Kharagpur road, the Gumani Bridge on Barharwa-Barheith road and a bridge at Dhamdaha-ghat on Purnea-Dhamdaha-Rupauli road are also nearing completion.

The State Government have launched upon a programme of nationalising the public motor transport services. On the 26th of January, 1953, all services in Patna and suburbs, services between Patna and Nawada and all short-distance services emanating from Patna were taken over under State management. The Patna-Ranchi service was also nationalised. It has been decided to extend nationalisation to the district of Gaya from the 1st April, 1954.

BOMBAY

The Public Works Department of the State Government has taken up the programme of modernisation of roads and providing cement concrete pavements in the State. Some of the most important roads of a length of 839 miles having heavy vehicular traffic are to be modernised at a cost of Rs. 684 lakhs. Upto the end of February 1954, 182 miles at a cost of Rs. 165.5 lakhs have been concreted and further work is in progress. Construction of 67 important bridges has also been taken in hand. Out of these, work on 40 bridges is actually in progress. The estimated cost is Rs. 276 lakhs. A new programme of 19 road and major bridge works at a cost of Rs. 1.99 crores has been sanctioned by the Government of India for being financed from the States' allocation under the Central Road Fund and is being implemented. Most of these works would be started this year. The Government of India recently approved the West Coast Road Development Programme of this State estimated to cost Rs. one crore and would give financial assistance to the extent of 50%.

Grants were sanctioned according to requirements of individual roads during 1952-53 for works to be taken up under this scheme in Thana, Ahmedabad, Kaira and South Satara Districts. Work on a mileage of about 50 is in progress. An amount of Rs. 7,62,000 was provided in the year 1953-54 under this scheme and the provision has been

utilised fully. Bombay Government have also accepted a similar scheme of the Government of India contribution of minor roads. The allocation to this State under this scheme will be Rs. 3 lakhs for the period ending 1955-56.

The scheme for establishing an all-weather road between Bombay and Ahmedabad as part of the national highway system is being implemented with utmost expedition. Three major bridges, 5 miles of new road and a few cross drainage works have been completed and work on 7 bridges, 147 miles of road and several cross drainage works are in progress.

The total capital expenditure incurred upto March is estimated at Rs. 918.21 lakhs. For the first time in the history of transport in this country, the trailer type of vehicles numbering 60 were put on the road.

There are about 90 minor ports in Bombay State. Many of the ports are silting while erosion is taking place at other places. With a view to dealing with the problem vigorously, a regular organisation has been set up and the services of an hydrographic expert have been obtained under the United Nations Technical Assistance Board.

Government have drawn up a programme of Rs. 32 lakhs for this development of intermediate and minor ports. The programme is to be financed partly from the Government of India loan and partly from the State revenues and it is to be completed during the Plan period. A separate programme of Rs. 20 lakhs has also been drawn up for development of port Okha. Hydrographic survey of minor ports was started during the year.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Prior to the Nationalisation of Transport in 1949, there were no satisfactory transport arrangements in Himachal Pradesh. In the first year Government had only a fleet of 52 Buses, 47 Trucks and 8 Cabs, Jeeps and Station Wagons to operate on 21 routes 549 miles long. Some of these vehicles were old ones obtained from the then existing operators. During the next year fleet was augmented by the addition of 5 Buses and 8 Trucks to cope with the traffic on 106 miles of four new routes. In the third year, the fleet comprised 62 Buses, 73 Trucks, and 13 Cabs including Jeeps and Station Wagons to ply over 667 miles of routes. During the 4th year the fleet consisted of 86 Buses, 84 Trucks and 13 Cabs including Jeeps and Station Wagons and during the year under review the fleet consists of 100 Buses, 95 Trucks, 16 Contract Carriages and 3 Motor Cycles. Moreover, certain portions of roads previously unmotorable were made fit for traffic, thereby increasing the total mileage to 947 as against 843 miles in the preceding year. It is also expected that 230 more miles will be made available for vehicular

traffic in the year 1955-56 under the Five-Year Development Plan.

The work of transportation of mails is also done by the Department on 8 routes in Chamba, Mhasu and Nahan Districts.

MADHYA BHARAT

The First Five-Year Plan consists of 38 road projects covering a total in length of 341 miles at an estimated cost of about Rs. 1.58 crores. An expenditure of Rs. 27.34 lakhs was incurred before the commencement of the Plan and Rs. 105.28 lakhs have been provided for in the Plan leaving a gap of a little over Rs. 25½ lakh to be provided. The expenditure for the next two years of the Plan is:

| | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|-------------|
| 1954-55 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 29.62 lakhs |
| 1955-56 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 25.34 lakhs |

About 150 miles of roads have been completed by the end of 1953-54.

In order to maintain existing roads, Rs. 42 lakhs have been provided for in the Plan budget out of which a sum of 13.28 is proposed for 1954-55.

The people in localities of towns from which PWD roads pass have to face considerable dust nuisance which has an adverse effect on their health. It is proposed to asphalt or cement concrete such stretches of roads and detailed programme for this has been sanctioned. The expenditure incurred and proposed to be incurred during the remaining Plan period is Rs. 4.01 lakhs in 1952-53; 2.50 lakhs in 1953-54; 2.00 lakhs in 1954-55 and 1.49 lakhs in 1955-56, the total coming to 7.00 lakhs. The programme will be completed by 1955-56.

A provision of Rs. 24 lakhs has been made in the Five-Year Plan for construction of new bridges. Some of the existing bridges and culverts also require to be improved and a provision of Rs. 10 lacs has been made in the Five-Year Plan.

Road making machineries such as road rollers, asphalt mixers, boilers, concrete mixers etc. are very essential for construction of new roads and proper maintenance. A sum of Rs. 10.00 lakhs has been provided for in the Plan for the purpose.

MADHYA PRADESH

A programme for the construction of village roads at a cost of Rs. 66 lakhs was to be completed by the end of March, 1954, in addition to the scarcity roads which had commenced during the scarcity of 1952-53. In the former programme villages of population less than 500 will be joined by roads.

The target for the road scheme in the Development Plan has been

increased from Rs. 2 crores to Rs. 3½ crores. Government have under consideration proposals for the establishment of a Road Development Fund and of a Board for the State.

A programme of tarring of portions of roads passing through villages and towns to prevent dust nuisance costing Rs. 10 lakhs has been chalked out.

The two transport companies in the State have made remarkable progress during recent years. The C.P. Transport Services Ltd., had started with a loss in 1948-49 but in 1952-53 it paid 6 per cent dividend to the share holders and declared a profit of Rs. 1.36 lakhs in the next year. Ever since Government took over management of the Provincial Transport Company, the share holders have been given 4 per cent dividend and the losses of the Company slashed to Rs. 3.23 lakhs. From April 1, 1953 to October, 1953 the C.P.T.S. had made a profit of Rs. 4,48,247 and the Provincial Transport a profit of Rs. 3,08,564. The two Companies have also taken steps in the matter of building workshops, bus stations and passenger shelters. At Jabbalpur and Sagar they have constructed passenger shelters at a total cost of Rs. 1.60 lakhs.

Routes have been allotted to private operators and about 81 per cent of the total road mileage is covered by them. The goods traffic is completely open for private enterprise.

MYSORE

The total capital invested up to 31st December, 1953 is Rs. 20,66,758/-. The revenue which was about Rs. 13 lakhs in 1948-49 has practically trebled in 1952-53. During 1953-54 a still better revenue is expected. The net revenue realised up to 31-12-53 is Rs. 4,06,378/-. The number of buses under operation is 107 as on 1-3-54, covering 42 routes.

An Advisory Committee has been constituted for scrutinising the working of the Road Transport Department. The policy is to extend the Government monopoly gradually over more routes in the State. Accordingly, the purchase of a fleet of 50 new buses was ordered and a part of the consignment has already arrived.

ORISSA

In Orissa the total investment made by the State Government in the departmentally run undertaking upto the end of 1952-53 amounted to Rs. 18,69,564/-. A further investment of Rs. 7,41,400/- has been made in 1953-54 for consolidating and extending the existing Zones including the extension of Jajpur-Keonjhar Road and Jajpur Town Services in the Keonjhar Zone. Thus the total investment made up to the end of 1953-54 was Rs. 26,10,964/-.

The rates of fare in the Nationalised Services have continued at the same level as in 1948-49. Although the cost of vehicles, spare parts and components has increased substantially, Government have not favoured any increase in the rates of fare in their anxiety to give effect to the policy of providing cheap and efficient transport to the travelling public.

The Nationalisation of the State Transport is a part of the Development Scheme which finds place in the Five-Year Plan. The capital expenditure proposed to be incurred up to the end of 1953-54 is Rs. 26,10,964/-, of which the expenditure incurred prior to the Five-Year Plan period is Rs. 16.14 lakhs.

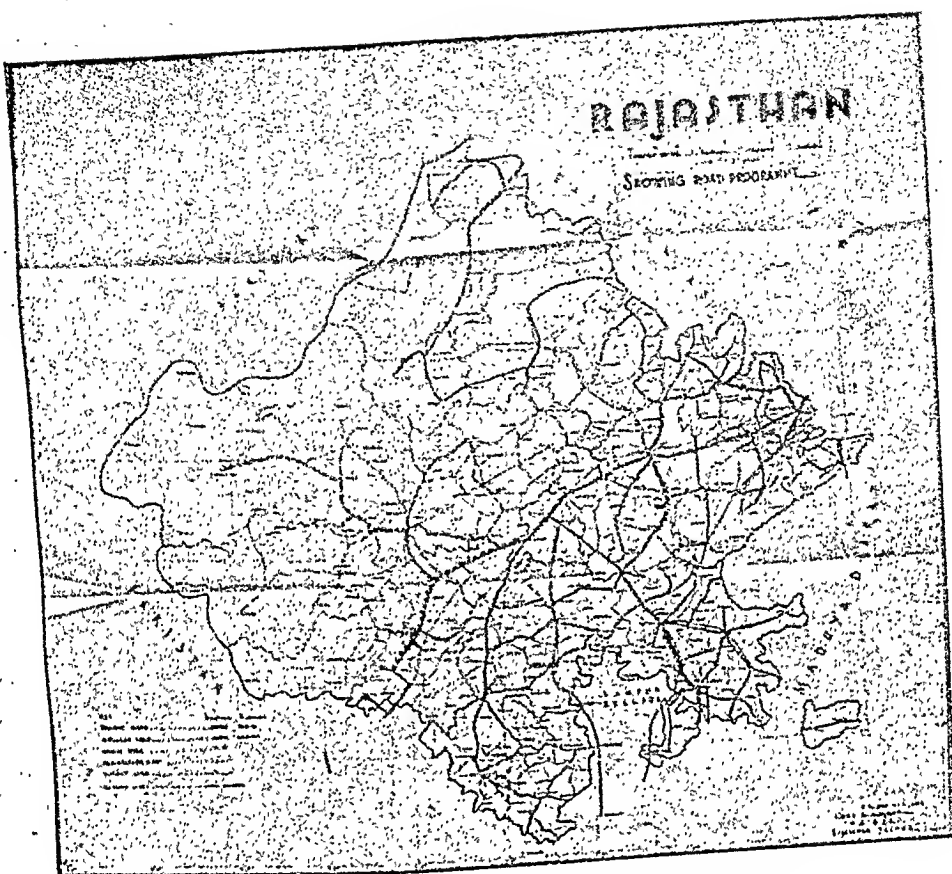
The Nationalisation in Sambalpur Zone is almost complete and with a further investment of Rs. 8 lakhs the process of consolidation will be completed by installing a full-fledged Central Workshop at Sambalpur and providing passenger rest sheds etc. for the public. The question of taking over all the routes in the Bhadrak Sub-Division during the next financial year with a further capital investment of Rs. 9 lakhs covering a route mileage of 134 miles is at present under consideration.

A scheme for nationalising all the routes in Koraput district has been prepared which is estimated at Rs. 16 lakhs. It is proposed initially to take over some routes of the district with a capital investment of Rs. 3.6 lakhs in 1954-55 and to extend gradually to the other routes in 1955-56 with a further capital outlay of Rs. 2.4 lakhs.

The Nationalised Transport Services run through the Joint Stock Company called Orissa Road Transport Company, Ltd. is normally termed as the Rationalised Services. As public response was very poor, the State Government had to purchase 22.2% of the shares by taking over a portion of the capital earmarked for the public. Further, the State Government had to subscribe to the extent of 79% of the capital as against 51% provided in the Articles of Association. Admittedly, the position in 1952-53 was not satisfactory. An expenditure of Rs. 1.07 lakhs was incurred on special repairs and renovations and was carried forward to 1953-54, the benefit of such repairs and renovation was to accrue in the latter year. A place has been purchased for the location of a Workshop and good deal of progress has been made in providing basic requirements in this direction.

It can now be definitely said that the Company has been able to turn the corner. The working during the year 1953-54 has been much better. The Company has extended its activities to Jatni-Daspalla area with effect from 1-1-54. According to the second revised estimates the net profits during the year 1953-54 will be about Rs. 2,07,746/- including profits from Jatni-Daspalla Unit.

Chandbali in the district of Balasore continued to be the only working port in Orissa. The year 1953-54 was a bright year for the Chandbali



Road Map of Rajasthan showing Road Programme.

port as the revenue derived during the year 1953-54 exceeded that of last two years. 73 ships called at the port. The export through this port mainly consisted of paddy, and rice to the extent of 26,917 tons and imports consisted of salt, betel nuts, mustard oil and other general cargo to the extent of 2,866 tons. The total value of trade transacted through the port amounted to Rs. 75,39,362|10|-. An amount of Rs. 73,618|5|- was earned by the port during the year.

PEPSU

Pending review of the existing agreement between Punjab and PEPSU regarding operation of transport services on joint routes, for which details are being worked out, road services connecting Chandigarh with Amritsar, Jullundur and Ludhiana have been introduced on a provisional basis and road links from Patiala to Faridkot and Nalagarh provided for.

A road building programme has been chalked out.

The Transport Authority during the period under review allotted 354 permits. Of these, 5 public carrier permits were allotted to members of the Scheduled Classes and 22 to Ex-Servicemen with a view to rehabilitating them.

PUNJAB

The road from Delhi to Amritsar has been widened to 22 feet and it is proposed to improve the riding qualities of the surface still further if funds are available. The National Highway from Jullundur to Pathankot and on to Jammu and Kashmir State border has been built. This important highway has reduced distance between Jullundur and Pathankot by about 50 miles. The entire road from Delhi to Mathura which is an important National Highway is being widened and this work will be completed this year. The National Highway from Delhi to Alwar is being widened up to Gurgaon and the widening may be extended further to mile 35, viz., up to Sohna which is famous for its hot water springs. The work of construction of a bridge over river Ghaggar near Sirsa on Delhi Hissar Sulemanki road has been completed. The work of widening between miles 18 to 44 is in progress. The Ambala-Kalka road is being widened up to Panjkoola from where the traffic goes to the new capital of the Punjab State at Chandigarh.

The Punjab State 5-Year Road Development Plan has been approved at a cost of Rs. 75.22 lakhs which envisages the construction of 130.00 miles. In the first 3 years of the plan, work to the extent of about Rs. 60.00 lakhs has been completed and the remaining work costing Rs. 15.22 lakhs would be finished within the next 2 years. This Plan is proposed to be augmented by a sum of Rs. 90.00 lakhs bringing the total cost of the 5-Year Plan for Road Development in the Punjab State to Rs. 165.75 lakhs.

The Government of India have initiated a scheme for the development of village roads with partial help from the villagers in the shape of free land, labour, material and even cash upto the extent of 1/3rd of the total cost involved. Schemes costing about Rs. 2.00 lakhs have been put under operation and it is proposed to construct roads costing Rs. 10.00 lakhs in the year 1954-55.

The Punjab Government have created a "Communications Board" to advise the District Board in the State on matters of communications.

The Punjab Government have embarked upon the construction of Bhakra Dam on which depends the future economy of the whole State. In order to carry agricultural produce, etc., of the area which is to be irrigated by Bhakra Canals to the marketing centre and to provide means of communications in this area, it has been decided to construct roads on a big scale. As first instalment of first priority roads it is proposed to construct 249 miles of roads at a cost of Rs. 130.00 lakhs in this area and work on these roads will be commenced early during this financial year.

In order to meet the long-felt need of the villages, Government are opening up 160 routes in the rural areas. These routes will be thrown open to private operators who ply over *kacha* routes.

RAJASTHAN

During the period under review the total number of vehicles increased by 954, the increase in the number of stage carriages being 114 and in that of goods vehicles 182. Regular permits have been issued to transport vehicles on 631 routes. The number of new routes opened during the period under review is 42.

The State and Regional Transport Authorities have commenced to function effectively and have begun to regulate the transport policies of the State in accordance with the enactments.

One hundred and twenty-five miles of black-topped and 233 miles of metalled roads were constructed bringing the total to 839 and 3,148 miles respectively. 65 miles of gravelled roads and 23 miles of fair weather roads were also constructed. Public Works Department (Buildings and Roads) in Rajasthan constructed in all 446 miles of roads during the period under review. A sum of Rs. 23 lakhs was sanctioned by the State Government and an additional grant of Rs. 10 lakhs was made available from the Government of India for the construction of roads in famine areas.

The work of maintenance of old roads was well attended to by the Department during the period. As a special case, a sum of Rs. 6 lakhs was provided during the financial year 1953-54 in the departmental budget for repairs of roads which were so far in the charge of the municipalities in various towns of the State.

SAURASHTRA

Six Diesel buses were purchased at Rs. 2.20 lakhs. There has been a marked increase in the daily operational mileage during the seventh year of freedom, the increase being 5,000 to 6,142 miles.

Two services, viz., Rajkot-Bhadla service and Una-Rajula service were extended. A shuttle service between Vadia and Gondal was also started.

The Transport Department is contemplating to invest about Rs. 5 lakhs in the latter part of the year for the purchase of some new chassis and machinery and for providing passenger sheds at important intermediate stations.

The Department is also actively considering to introduce shortly reservation of seats in buses.

Trade handled at the Ports of Saurashtra amounted to 1.20 million tons during the year ending 31st March, 1954 as against 1.13 million tons in the preceding year. Judging by the figures of the whole year 1953-54, the traffic during the next five months i.e. from 1st April, 1954 to August, 1954 may be estimated to the tune of 5,00,000 tons. The increase is due mainly to the policy of expansion of export of Saurashtra Salt and Cement.

The Five-Year Plan for Saurashtra Ports provides for a total expenditure of Rs. 33.02 lakhs for the development of Ports. During the first 3 years, Rs. 8 lakhs have already been spent and during the current year a provision for Rs. 13 lakhs has been made which is expected to be fully utilised.

It has been decided to take up certain essential works at important minor ports and an improvement programme costing Rs. 224.41 lakhs (including Okha) in the aggregate has been drawn up and approved by a Sub-Committee of the National Harbour Board. The Government of India have advanced loans totalling about Rs. 22.8 lakhs during 1953-54 for financing these works. The loans will be interest-free for a period of 12 years.

UTTAR PRADESH

During the year the State Government, decided to take up an ambitious programme for the development of roads other than the National Highways, at a cost of Rs. 2.5 crores. This programme was to be in addition to the State's Five-Year Plan for road construction which would cost Rs. 522.3 lakhs. Under the State's Five-Year Plan for road construction, 1,100 miles of new metalled roads and 4,649 miles of unmetalled roads had been constructed and about 2,200 miles of metalled roads had been re-constructed or improved up to the end of March last.

So far as the National Highways passing through the State are concerned, out of a length of 1,510 miles, about three-fourths

VINDHYA PRADESH

Government sanctioned Rs. one lakh in the Budget for 1953-54 for construction of bus stands at Rewa, Chak, Satna, Panna and Chhatarpur.

WEST BENGAL

There has been considerable progress and all-round improvement in the field of road transport in West Bengal. The State Transport services, providing modern travelling amenities, have been appreciated by the general public.

To cater for the needs of the travelling public, the State Transport Department in Calcutta have now under commission 317 Buses including 37 double-decker ones. Excluding those which are not put on the road, being under repair or reconditioning, nearly 240 Buses ply on 12 routes in Calcutta.

Actual programme of road development works includes new construction and improvement of 296 miles of National Highways and 1,996 miles of State roads of various categories.

Of the total length of 2,291 miles including the National Highways, works are already in good progress on about 1,700 miles. A total length of 1,450 miles of new road has thus been already developed.

Four major bridges on National Highways and 23 minor bridges on State roads have been completed and thrown open to traffic.

SAURASHTRA PORTS

The Modern Ports of Bhavnagar, Bedi, Navlakhi, Veraval and Porbander studded on the coast of Saurashtra, equipped with Jetties, Cranes and Tugs connected by Railways, provided with adequate Warehousing accommodation, with proper banking facilities and under efficient management are excellently suited for Landing and Shipping of all types of cargo. Quick turn-round of Ships, favourable labour conditions and attractive charges make it economical to call at these Ports. For Central India and North Indian Stations, up to Delhi and beyond there is an added advantage of shorter rail link.

Bhavnagar, Bedi and Navlakhi are all-weather Ports with well-protected anchorages suited to large ocean-going vessels. The Port of Bhavnagar is in addition equipped with a Concrete Jetty of modern design capable of taking simultaneously two ocean-going steamers.

For more particulars contact :—

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (PORTS),
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CHAPTER XI

THE DEFENCE SERVICES

Mission of Peace : A review of the activities of the Defence Services during the seventh year of freedom has to begin with a mention of India's peace mission in Korea. This mission, delicate and difficult, was unique in the sense that it was for the first time that the troops of any country had gone abroad not to participate in a war but in a mission of peace, recognized by all sides as such, to help in bringing about the end of a bitter, long drawn-out struggle that had already caused immense loss of life and property and intense suffering.

The mission was undertaken in a spirit of humility and service and not out of any undue anxiety on the part of India to interfere in international affairs. If we did not wholly succeed in completing explanations to the prisoners of war it was not because our men in Korea failed in their duty in any respect but because the two sides to the dispute in Korea adopted an uncompromising attitude which made it impossible for work to be done according to the programme which had been laid down.

The history of the mission and its course during the six months that our troops stayed in Korea are now well-known. Nominated to the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission, which was to resolve the problem of unrepatriated prisoners of war in Korea, India was also asked to take over the Chairmanship of the Commission and to provide the Custodian Force to take charge of the prisoners. She undertook these responsibilities with promptitude, and a force of about 6,000 officers and men, besides the staff attached to the Chairman of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission, Lt-Gen. K. S. Thimayya, was soon despatched to Korea. Major-Gen S. P. P. Thorat was appointed Commander of the Custodian Force.

From the date of their arrival in Korea till the date of departure, these men, struggling against heavy odds, tried to do their job with sincerity and strict impartiality. They were not used to the severe Korean winter and the behaviour of the prisoners tried their patience and tact to the utmost. But not for one moment did they lose self-control.

The mission had to come to an end without completing explanations to all the prisoners and the "unexplained" prisoners had to be handed back to their respective holding sides at the expiry of the stipulated

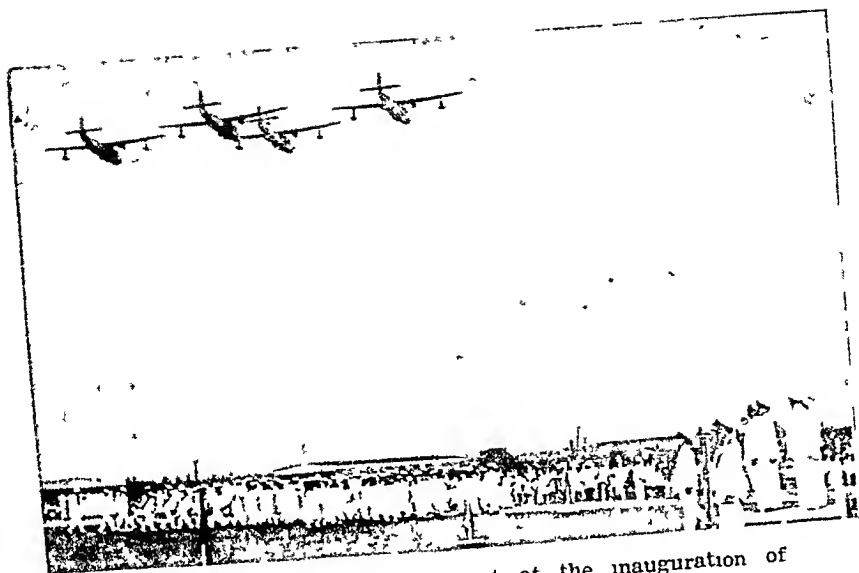
period for explanations. Our men returned to India and received a most warm welcome for a job well done. They had truly lived up to their motto "For the Honour of India."

In Aid of Civil Power : At home the Defence Services continue to grow in popularity and in strength. During the year they continued actively to help the people in distress and difficulties as well as in nation-building activities wherever possible. They have made a substantial contribution to the Grow More Food and Van Mahotsava campaigns which have been undertaken by them, ever since their inauguration in the country, in a characteristically methodical fashion. Army, which, by virtue of its larger size, has greater scope for such activities, brought about 9,000 acres of land under cultivation and produced over 2,000 tons of foodgrains. In addition to what the troops have been doing on their own, measures have been taken to give medical aid to the people and for that purpose medical stores and equipment have been distributed to different States out of surplus Defence stocks and facilities have been provided at certain centres for free medical treatment to civilians.

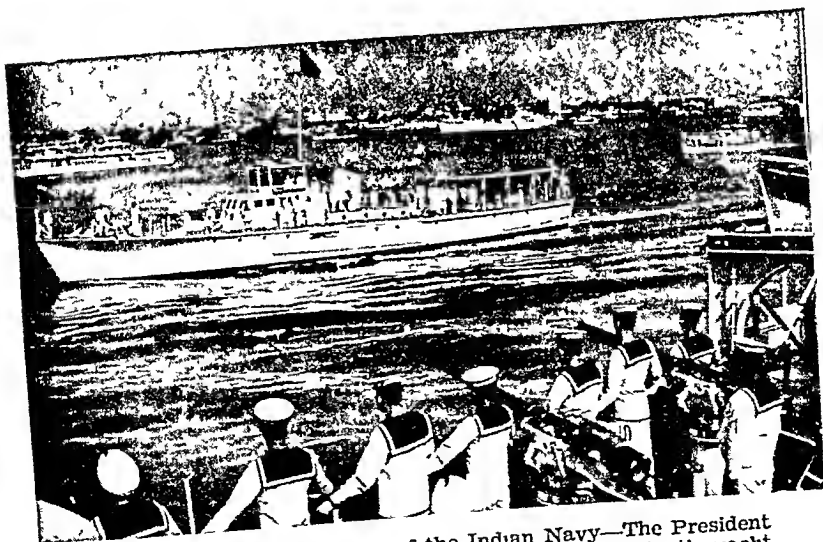
While the soldier, the sailor and the airman do their bit for the welfare of the people, the latter, too, have on various occasions, shown their concern for the well-being of the Armed Forces by generous and spontaneous response to appeals for funds for the benefit of Servicemen. An outstanding example was the spontaneity and warmth with which the funds and gift parcels were collected for the welfare of our troops in Korea.

- But what the Armed Forces undertake in the interest of national well-being and in the alleviation of distress is only a part-time job, done without any detriment to their normal duty of preparing themselves for the defence of their country through constant training.

Training : The efforts made in providing facilities for military training to all ranks of the three Services in India have yielded satisfactory results and today the Army is fully self-sufficient in the matter of training, while the Air Force and the Navy are well on the way to achieving this objective. Of the Defence training institutions the most important perhaps is the National Defence Academy, at present situated at Dehra Dun but shortly to be shifted to Khadakvasla near Poona. During the past year considerable progress was made with the construction of new buildings at Khadakvasla and the move of the Joint Services Wing to the new premises is expected to take place early in 1955. Although every care is taken to see that the very best material is selected for training at this premier institution of the Armed Forces and the methods of selection have been revised and greatly improved, still it is inevitable that some cadets turn out to be unsuitable and have to be rejected during training. In order to make sure that the assessment



Amphibian Sealands flying past at the inauguration of India's first naval air station, INS GARUDA.



A landmark in the history of the Indian Navy—The President reviewing the Fleet for the first time. The President's yacht is in the centre.

of cadets during training is sound and that cadets are given full encouragement and opportunities to develop their potentialities, Government have constituted a Committee with Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru as Chairman to go into this question fully.

Another important institution where training is imparted on an Inter-Service basis is the Staff College at Wellington. The foundations of Inter-Service co-operation laid at the National Defence Academy are further strengthened at this institution. Both the NDA and the Staff College as well as the various Air Force Academies and Naval Schools not only give full training to our officers but have also attracted appreciative notice from neighbouring countries that have begun to send their cadets for training at these institutions.

Defence Production: Ranking equal in importance to training is the quality and quantity of weapons and equipment that are available to the Defence Services. In this respect the year saw some notable advance in indigenous production, but the battle for self-sufficiency still continues. With her declared policy of non-aggression and peace, and goodwill towards all, India need enter no armament race, but she has to strive for stepping up her defence production sufficiently to be able to stand on her own feet. Keeping that goal in mind, a number of projects were taken in hand with a view to developing items of use in the Defence Services and many indigenous substitutes have now replaced material previously imported. The year witnessed two important landmarks in the progress of Defence Industry in the country. The first was the contract signed with a French firm for establishment of the Bharat Electronic Industry for production of electronics, radio and radar equipment; production is expected to start in 1956-57. The second was the production of HT-2 trainer aircraft by Hindustan Aircraft Limited.

Defence Science: The Defence Science Organisation too recorded further expansion. The Institute of Armament Studies, established last year, is making steady progress.

Military Training to the People: In response to persistent demand from leaders of public opinion the scope of military training to the people has been enlarged. So far there were two organisations, the Territorial Army and the National Cadet Corps, which imparted military training in their respective spheres—one to the citizens between the ages of 18 and 35 and the other to students in schools and colleges. But these could hardly touch the fringe of India's vast population. It was, therefore, decided to have an Auxiliary Territorial Army now called Auxiliary Territorial Force, and an Auxiliary Cadet Corps, both to function on the basis of voluntary enrolment. The Auxiliary Cadet Corps gives to boys and girls, who are unable to join the NCC, an

opportunity to receive elementary military training and the A.T.F. fulfils the same purpose in respect of men between the ages of 18 and 40 from both the rural and urban areas. Both these organisations have had a good start and have become very popular with the classes of people they cater for.

It has been decided further to expand the National Cadet Corps, particularly Girls Division, and for this purpose the Central Government have decided to bear 50% of the cost of the NCC instead of about 33%, the rest being borne by the State Governments.

The syllabus of training for all Divisions of the Corps is being reviewed in the light of actual experience.

The National Cadet Corps itself not only continued to retain the popularity it had gained from its inception but enhanced its prestige by including in its training schedule social service work through which the cadets were able to render valuable direct help to the people. At camps held throughout the country the NCC cadets built roads and houses, cleared drains, repaired dams, gave medical aid to the people and contributed to national advancement in a variety of other ways. All this work taught them the dignity of labour and the benefits of team work and, they at the same time, proved to be an example of self-help to the people they worked for.

The Territorial Army, too, made some progress. The strength reached during the year in urban and rural units was 67 and 80 per cent respectively. In order, however, to expedite the completion of the T.A.'s full strength, Government propose to enact legislation providing compulsory enrolment for Government employees and certain other classes of workers.

RIFLE TRAINING SCHEME:

To meet the general demand for rifle training, it has been decided to manufacture a large number of .22-bore rifles. These rifles, along with enough ammunition, both of which are expected to be cheap, will be made available to the district authorities, who will arrange to provide necessary training facilities in the police lines. If there is sufficient response it should be possible to recover the cost of the rifle by levying a small entrance fee. The ammunition will be so cheap that everyone should be able to pay for it. This scheme provides a great opportunity for people in every part of the country to have rifle training.

Indian Navy: Highlights of the Navy's progress during the year were the inauguration of naval aviation and the establishment of Indian Naval Air Station 'Garuda' at Cochin, consolidation and development of training facilities for naval personnel, acquisition of a Tanker and three

Hunt-Class destroyers, and Indianisation of some of the top appointments. A cruiser is being acquired from the British Admiralty.

Steps have been taken for the acquisition of a second Cruiser from the British Admiralty. For the first time the construction of certain vessels required by the Navy is being undertaken by the Hindustan Shipyard Limited at Vishakapatnam.

An event of importance to the Navy as well as to the country was the Review of the Fleet by the President, a ceremony, the grandeur of which matched its historic significance.

A small repair organisation capable of affording repair facilities for small ships has been set up at Cochin and plans are in hand for the setting up of a similar organisation at Vishakhapatnam as well as for the expansion of the Naval Dockyard at Bombay to meet the increasing commitments.

Continuing its drive for self-sufficiency in training, the Navy is now in a position to train its officers and men for the Executive, Supply and Secretariat and Instructor Branches in India. For the highly technical branches, part of the training has still to be given in the United Kingdom. Considerable progress was, however, made in the development of training establishments in India and construction work on many of them was taken in hand. Some of the schools are expected to be completed by the end of 1954. Various proposals to improve training facilities on our ships are expected to be put into operation during the current year. A number of exercises were carried out by ships of the Navy as part of their training programme. In these exercises, the newly-formed Fleet Requirement Unit also participated.

The Navy now has an Indian as its Deputy C-in-C and Chief of Staff and some of the other appointments taken over by Indians were those of Naval Secretary, Commodore-in-Charge, Cochin and Commodore-in-Charge, Bombay. With the exception of one, all the administrative commands are now held by Indian Naval officers. Two constructive fields where the Navy has made steady progress are Naval Science, for the development of which laboratories have been set up, and Marine Survey.

During the middle of June, 1953, fishing craft with about 250 fishermen drifted out to sea in a gale near the coast of Madras. At the request of the Government of Madras, INS RANA rendered immediate help and rescued the fishermen.

Indian Air Force : The seventh year of country's freedom has marked an important phase in the growth, nationalisation and modernisation of the Indian Air Force.

On April 1 this year, the IAF came of age having completed its 21 years of existence. The same day Air Marshal S. Mukherjee assumed command of the Indian Air Force as its first Indian Commander-in-Chief and Dr. Rajendra Prasad bestowed a signal honour on the Service by the gift to it of the President's Colour in recognition of its meritorious services to the nation. All executive appointments in the Indian Air Force are now held by IAF officers.

During the year under review the IAF continued to give air support to maintain 'line of communication' between the main land and inaccessible outposts in the north-east frontier agency in Assam. This important commitment is likely to increase with the expected increase in the effort to develop these backward areas; the Air Force is better equipped and experienced today than ever to meet such commitments anywhere in the country with efficiency and promptitude.

The permanent works projects which began soon after partition are making headway. Permanent stations with modern airfields, workshops and domestic areas are coming up for housing the IAF. New equipment, including modern jet aircraft such as 'Toofanis' and heavy transport machines like 'Fairchild' Boxcar have been acquired during the year. The training of pupil pilots is gradually being switched over to jet aircraft in order to keep pace with modern trends in military aviation.

For the first time in its history, the Indian Air Force on March 28 last staged an air display for the general public using live ammunition. The object of demonstrating fire power of modern Air Force was amply achieved and the Service received compliments, amongst others from the President who said, "It has been rightly said that the IAF has now come of age. It is not so merely in the metaphorical or the customary sense, but in view of unmistakable signs of maturity in most of its activities. The air display which the IAF gave the other day at Tilpat, furnished a convincing proof of the truth of this statement."

CIVILIAN WORKERS IN DEFENCE INSTALLATIONS:

It has been decided to create a permanent cadre of civilian industrial personnel employed in Defence installations. The number of appointments to be made permanent is under consideration. The Ministry of Defence also propose to set up a Standing Negotiating Machinery for settlement of disputes between Government and workers in Defence installations.



Cadets of the Girls Division of the National Cadet Corps doing Social Service work among villagers.



The Prime Minister, Sri Jawaharlal Nehru, inspecting a parade of National Cadet Corps boys.

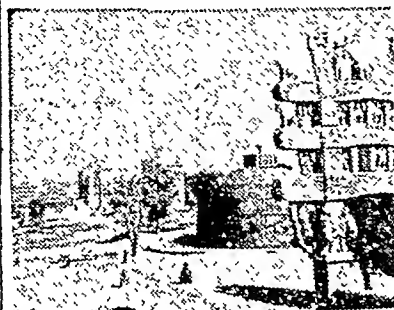


Dr. Rajendra Prasad presenting the President's Colour to the Indian Air Force on the occasion of its 21st anniversary.

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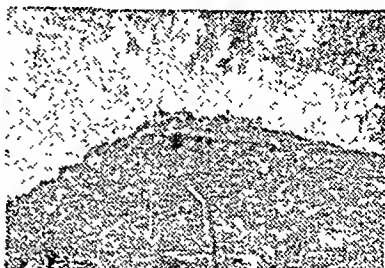
Old and New Sanchi—The most magnificent example of Buddhist architecture in India



A lake-side view of the City of Bhopal.



Inside view of Shivite Temple at Bhojpur—famous for Shiv Lingam of unusual size and elegance.



Raisin Fort—one which has played a significant role in the development of events in this part of the country.



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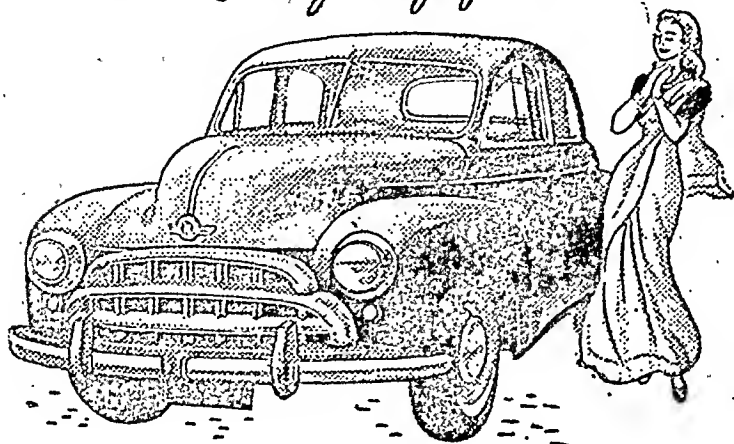
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CHAPTER XII

REHABILITATION OF DISPLACED PERSONS

The rehabilitation of displaced persons has continued to engage the earnest attention of the Government of India. A stage has now been reached when rehabilitation work relating to displaced persons from West Pakistan may be considered as largely over. Emphasis has now shifted to States in the Eastern Region. More funds are being allotted for relief and rehabilitation work in the Eastern States.

The Government of India had set up a Committee of Ministers consisting of the Union Finance and Rehabilitation Ministers and the Chief Minister of West Bengal to review relief and rehabilitation schemes in West Bengal and make recommendations for the future. The Committee has made various recommendations, action on which is now being taken.

Rehabilitation has increasingly been integrated with the Five-Year Plan. During the first three years of Plan ending 1953-54, a provision of Rs. 84.98 crores was made for the following items:—

- (i) Vocational and technical training;
- (ii) Education;
- (iii) Capital Outlay on the construction of houses;
- (iv) Expenditure on loans granted for the rehabilitation of displaced persons in urban and rural areas and for the construction of houses for them; and
- (v) Loans sanctioned through the Rehabilitation Finance Administration.

For the last two years the Plan originally envisaged the following requirements:—

| | |
|---------|------------------|
| 1954-55 | Rs. 16.10 crores |
| 1955-56 | Rs. 12.10 crores |

Rs. 28.20 Crores

Total—

These figures were recently revised in order to include schemes for mitigating unemployment in the new townships and for building houses to remove congestion in evacuee houses. The revised figures for the two years are:—

| | |
|---------|------------------|
| 1954-55 | Rs. 23.70 crores |
| 1955-56 | Rs. 18.00 crores |

Rs. 41.70 crores

Total—

In addition, the Plan has made a provision of Rs. 1 crore during 1954-55 and two crores during 1955-56 for development of industries in the new townships and also of Rs. 3 crores each year for the grant of loans through the Rehabilitation Finance Administration. Thus the present estimated expenditure for the next two years stands at Rs. 50.70 crores as against the original estimates of Rs. 28.20 crores.

The following is a brief review of the activities of the Rehabilitation Ministry since its inception in September, 1947.

The present population of displaced persons in India is 79.50 lakhs—roughly 47.50 lakhs from West Pakistan and 32 lakhs from East Pakistan. Displaced persons from West Pakistan are about 50 per cent urban and 50 per cent rural, whereas majority of those from East Bengal are from the rural areas.

The displaced persons from West Pakistan are distributed mainly over the Punjab (I), Pepsu, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Saurashtra, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Madhya Bharat, Ajmer, Bhopal and Rajasthan, while those from East Pakistan are concentrated in West Bengal and the adjoining State of Bihar, Assam, Manipur and Tripura.

Rural Resettlement—In all, 5.64 lakh families of displaced persons from West Pakistan have been settled on evacuee land and other culturable waste lands, specially reclaimed for the purpose by the State Governments and the Central Tractor Organisation.

In addition to the allotment of land, loans are advanced in deserving cases for the purchase of bullocks, seeds, implements etc. The total amount of loans advanced till the end of 1953-54 is expected to amount to Rs. 9.10 crores. Provision for 1954-55 is Rs. 20 lakhs. The average amount of loan is Rs. 1,150 per family.

Rural rehabilitation may be said to be almost complete. Efforts have been made to discover more lands and to retrieve land by the cancellation of irregular allotments. In Rajasthan, Hyderabad, and Bhopal, available evacuee lands are being allotted to land claimants on the basis of their verified claims. In U. P., allotment of 1,121 evacuee groves to land claimants is in progress. Availability of evacuee or other lands elsewhere for allotment to land claimants is being explored.

The number of displaced families of agriculturists and non-agriculturists from East Pakistan settled so far is 2.92 lakhs. By the end of 1953-54, Rs. 9.62 crores had been advanced to various State Governments in the Eastern Zone for grant of rural loans to displaced persons. The provision for 1954-55 is Rs. 3.90 crores.

Urban Resettlement—The displaced persons from the urban areas of West Pakistan were in the neighbourhood of 23 lakhs.

The evacuee houses available were sufficient for hardly 12 lakhs of persons. For the rest, new houses had to be built. Directly as well as through the State Governments, the Central Government has built houses of different patterns throughout the country, encouraged displaced persons to form house-building co-operative societies and given suitable plots of land and loans to those societies for building houses. Residential plots of land were also developed and sold to individual displaced persons on easy terms.

Altogether provision has so far been made for 200,000 residential units, out of which 1,55,000 have been built by Government and 45,000 by displaced persons with financial assistance from Government. These are enough for 10 lakhs of persons. During 1954-55, in addition to completing the existing programme, Government is taking up the question of removal of congestion in urban areas caused by the overcrowding of displaced persons in evacuee and other houses. The Five-Year Plan, as mentioned earlier, has made a special provision for this purpose.

The general policy adopted in the Eastern States is to provide building sites and/or loans and to leave the construction to the displaced persons themselves. So far, 2.45 lakh houses and tenements have been built by the displaced persons themselves out of loans granted to them by Government. Government have also undertaken building work on their own and about 13,450 houses and tenements have been constructed in the Eastern States.

Up to 1953-54, Rs. 65.10 crores have been spent on housing schemes including house building loans for displaced persons both from West Pakistan and East Bengal.

Gainful Employment—The provision of gainful employment has taken different forms—direct employment, technical and vocational training of younger people, grant of loans for business and industry, provision of business premises, procurement of special quotas for certain essential commodities, etc.

(a) **Direct Employment**—Over 2,14,000 displaced persons (1,76,000 from West Pakistan and 38,000 from East Bengal) have been found employment through the Government Employment Exchanges. About 80,000 displaced persons from East and West Pakistan have been employed in State Service. (This figure includes some persons who got employment through the Employment Exchanges).

(b) **Grant of loans**—A provision of Rs. 75 lakhs has been made in 1954-55 for granting loans to industrialists for setting up industries in order to mitigate unemployment in new townships.

Under the small Urban Loans Scheme, loans up to Rs. 5,000 in each case are given to displaced persons settled in urban areas for business, trades, industry and certain professions. In the case of groups or co-operative societies of displaced persons no maximum limit is prescribed, though ordinarily the loans advanced do not exceed the total amount subscribed by the members or Rs. 2,500 per member whichever is higher. In 1953-54, the grant of urban loans was linked up with the interim compensation scheme.

In the case of displaced persons from East Bengal, loans continue to be granted by the State Government at their discretion to all displaced persons who need financial assistance.

Rs. 19.29 crores have been advanced by the Ministry to State Governments for loans under the Small Urban Loans Scheme, Rs. 11.84 crores for displaced persons from West Pakistan and Rs. 7.45 crores for displaced persons from East Bengal. For amounts exceeding Rs. 5,000, loans are advanced by the Rehabilitation Finance Administration. Individual displaced persons, partnerships, private limited companies, co-operative societies and joint stock companies formed by displaced persons are eligible for such loans. Out of 65,739 applications received, 62,792 have been disposed of and Rs. 7.78 crores disbursed in loans. A budget provision of Rs. 2.4 crores has been made for 1954-55 for the grant of loans through the Administration.

- (c) *Technical and vocational training*—Through the training centres run by the Directorate General of Resettlement and Employment, as well as by the State Governments and the Ministry of Rehabilitation, 63,000 displaced persons from West Pakistan have been trained in various technical and vocational trades and 9,000 are under training. Similarly, 11,000 displaced persons from East Bengal have been trained and 6,000 more are under training.
- (d) *Business premises*—In addition to the allotment of 29,000 evacuee shops and evacuee industrial establishments to displaced persons from West Pakistan, 32,000 new shops and stalls have also been built for them in various towns. Special industrial areas have been established in the Punjab and Delhi and in some of the new townships.

Education—Various measures have been adopted to help the education of displaced students. These include the grant of financial assistance in the form of loans, stipends, scholarships, books and stationery, exemption from tuition fees, waiving of domicile restrictions and exemption from the payment of fees. Grants have also been given to State Governments to expand the existing capacity of educational

institutions and also to displaced educational institutions to restart their activities in India.

In 1953-54, about Rs. one crore were spent on the education of displaced persons from West Pakistan. A provision of Rs. 75 lakhs has been made for the year 1954-55.

In West Bengal, in addition to assistance mentioned above, 1,019 Primary Schools have been opened where about 1,50,000 students are receiving education.

There are 22 primary schools in Cachar (Assam) and 14 in various rural colonies in Orissa to which grants are given by the Central Government.

Displaced students appearing in competitive examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission have been given age concessions.

Relief—In the case of displaced persons from West Pakistan, relief is now confined only to unattached women and children and old and infirm numbering about 36,700, for whose care and maintenance Government has assumed responsibility. Expenditure is also incurred on giving financial assistance to those suffering from T. B. In addition, expenditure is also being incurred on medical and public health arrangements in some colonies.

Relief camps are still being maintained for displaced persons from East Bengal. Excluding permanent liabilities, the camp population is about 77,300. In addition, relief is being given to 40,000 unattached women and children and old and infirm displaced persons.

Maintenance Allowance—Maintenance Allowance is being given to about 14,000 displaced persons from West Pakistan, who by reason of old age, infirmity, illness and other causes, are unable to make a living for themselves and who depended for their livelihood on income from urban immovable property in West Pakistan.

Interim Compensation Scheme—As no agreement was reached with Pakistan on the subject of immovable property, the final scheme for giving compensation to displaced persons from West Pakistan and the legislation enabling utilization of evacuee property for compensation were delayed. Meanwhile, in November, 1953, Government sanctioned an interim scheme for certain categories of displaced persons numbering about 50,000.

Verified claims were analysed by means of mechanical card punching with the help of the Army Statistical Organisation. Compensation scales were prepared on the basis of the data collected on the principle that the smaller the claim the greater the assistance. An organisation to implement the Interim Scheme under the five Regional Settlement

Commissioners was set up, the procedure for dealing with compensation applications was laid down and accounting and audit arrangements made. A booklet explaining the Interim Compensation Scheme in English, Hindi, Urdu, Sindhi and Gurumukhi was put on sale at a nominal price.

During 1953-54, compensation and rehabilitation grants were to be given to the recipients of maintenance allowance if they were not occupying Government-built or evacuee houses and to inmates of Homes and Infirmarys and cash "doles" outside Homes. After making enquiries to establish eligibility and ascertaining rehabilitation benefits already taken, an amount of Rs. 42.5 lakhs was paid to 1,329 persons up to the 13th March, 1954. Some inmates of Homes were offered payment on condition that they would leave Homes. Expenses of those who do not accept the offer will be met out of the amounts due to them. Over 6,000 claimants in the Punjab received about Rs. 18,00,000 in the form of the mud huts occupied by them which were transferred to them in ownership. Payment of the balance due to these persons is proposed to be taken up in 1954-55. 9,340 mud huts of the value of Rs. 23.85 lakhs were transferred to non-claimants.

Valuation of evacuee houses and factories and of the 27 townships under the Interim Scheme made good progress. Occupants of these townships and priority claimants living in evacuee houses, were exempted from the payment of rent from the 1st November, 1953 and the houses will be allotted to them on quasi-permanent basis after fixing their values.

A beginning was made with the allotment of land to persons having claims for agricultural lands. In Rajasthan about 600 land claimants were allotted 20,000 acres. Besides, nearly 3,000 persons having land claims had been previously allotted land in Rajasthan and if their allotments fall short of the area due to them under the quasi-permanent scales, the deficiency will be made good. In Hyderabad, about 47,000 acres of evacuee land are being allotted to 780 land claimants.

In Bhopal land is being allotted to over 400 land claimants. 1,121 groves in U. P. (value of Rs. 38 lakhs approx.) and some large farms in Madhya Pradesh, Hyderabad and Mysore are also being allotted to land claimants. The arrangements in hand are expected to result in full or partial satisfaction of about 5,000 land claims in various States by July, 1954.

Other rehabilitation schemes are, as far as practicable, being integrated with the compensation scheme. A sum of Rs. 38,00,000 was to be given as loans to plot-holders at Chandigarh, who had claims. An amount of Rs. 13,76,000 was sanctioned as grant to a number of disrupted educational

institutions having verified claims. House-building loans are, as far as possible, to be given to those having claims. Persons with claims are thus receiving financial assistance (or properties) which will be adjusted later. Members of Co-operative Housing Societies have been invited to file compensation applications.

The Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Bill, 1954: For nearly seven years negotiations have been in progress with the Government of Pakistan for an equitable settlement of the problem of immovable evacuee property. The Government of India have consistently been of the view that the immovable evacuee properties, including agricultural land, in India and Pakistan should be exchanged on a Government-to-Government basis, the debtor country paying to the creditor country the differences in the values. The proposals made by the Government of India from time to time have either been turned down or side-tracked by Pakistan. Meantime there has been a persistent demand from displaced persons in India that these properties should be transferred to them in permanent ownership. The properties have been fast deteriorating and many of them have crumbled down. To halt further deterioration and to facilitate the process of rehabilitation the Government of India decided early in May 1954 to acquire the rights and titles in evacuee property in this country. On May 14, 1954, the Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Bill, 1954 was introduced in Parliament.

The Bill provides that the right, title, and interest of evacuees in evacuee properties in India should be acquired by Government. The compensation to be paid to displaced persons will be confined to the utilisation of the acquired evacuee property in India as well as any amount realised from Pakistan on account of the difference between the values of evacuee properties in the two countries. The loans so far advanced to displaced persons from West Pakistan, the properties built by Government for their rehabilitation, and the provision made till May, 1953, for the rehabilitation of displaced persons from West Pakistan under the Five-Year Plan or otherwise are to be utilised for payment of rehabilitation grants to the small claimants.

Administration of Evacuee Property (Amendment) Bill, 1954: The evacuee property law was enacted to meet an abnormal situation. With Government's decision to acquire the right, title and interest of evacuee owners in their properties in India and to utilise such properties for payment of part compensation to displaced persons, the *raison d'être* for the continuance of the evacuee property law in its present form has lost much of its force. Government have accordingly decided that the evacuee property law should cease to operate except in cases where the cause of action arose before May 7, 1954. For this purpose, the

Administration of Evacuee Property (Amendment) Bill, 1954, was introduced in Parliament on May 21, 1954.

Even before the passage of the Bill the Custodians of Evacuee Property were instructed not to start proceedings in respect of cases in which the cause of action arose on or after May 7, 1954.

Rehabilitation Conferences, Srinagar: A conference of State Rehabilitation Secretaries, Custodians of Evacuee Property and officers of the Central Government was held at Srinagar on June 5, 6 and 7, 1954. This was followed by a Conference of State Rehabilitation Ministers on June 7 and 8. A summary of the important recommendations made at these two conferences is given below:—

(i) *Re-organisation of policy regarding evacuee property in the light of the compensation scheme.*

In order to facilitate the rehabilitation of displaced persons, as also payment of compensation, wherever practicable, the allotments made in favour of non-displaced persons (including Government servants) may be cancelled unless there is no demand for such houses from displaced persons.

All future allotments of evacuee property should be made to displaced persons. Non-displaced persons should be considered for allotment only when there is no demand from displaced persons. Allotments should, as far as possible, be made to displaced persons having verified claims.

Industrial premises should be allotted to displaced persons having verified claims in respect of industrial premises in Pakistan.

Serious efforts should be made to recover all arrears of rent by December 31, 1954.

The Custodians should proceed with the disposal of uneconomic evacuee properties which were listed in December, 1952, and approved by the Custodian-General.

(ii) *Interim Compensation Scheme and the Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Bill, 1954.*

A Committee consisting of Joint Secretary, Ministry of Rehabilitation and Rehabilitation Secretaries of the Punjab, PEPSU, Uttar Pradesh, Bombay and Delhi State Governments was appointed to go into the question of extension of the interim compensation scheme to new categories.

(iii) *Re-organisation of Rehabilitation Department of State Governments and of the Rehabilitation Ministry at the Centre.*

The question of re-organisation of State Rehabilitation Departments should be decided on individual merit and after due consultation with the State Governments concerned.

The Central Rehabilitation Ministry should be continued though its activities might be curtailed in certain directions and expanded in others.

(iv) *Administration of Displaced Persons (Debt Amendment) Act.*

The State Government should use their good offices with the tribunals to expedite the disposal of the outstanding applications.

The payment of compensation should not be held up pending disposal of all applications by the tribunals as this would unduly delay the implementation of the compensation scheme.

(v) *Valuation of Government-built properties and their transfer to displaced persons.*

The present market value of Government-built properties should be realised.

(vi) *Housing Schemes for displaced persons in various States of the Western region.*

Except Bombay, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Bhopal, housing schemes sponsored by Government for displaced persons without adequate shelter or living in Dharamshalas or public buildings should be completed in all other States by the 31st March, 1955. Construction of houses might, however, be continued through co-operative societies who would be advanced loans to the extent of the aggregate interim compensation due to their claimant members.

(vii) *Loans for the rehabilitation of displaced persons.*

In the case of claimants, rural loans might be given only to those who cultivated the land allotted to them and whose holdings were economic.

The concession of writing off loans up to Rs. 300 given in the case of urban loans might apply also to rural loans advanced for non-agricultural persons.

[NOTE: As a result of representations, the Government of India decided in May, 1954, not to recover the following loans advanced to displaced persons from West Pakistan who have no verified claims under the Displaced Persons (Claims) Act, Act, 1950:—

- (a) loans of Rs. 300 or less given under the Small Urban Loans Scheme for business, trade and industries; and
- (b) all loans for education (other than for education abroad) irrespective of their amount).

(vii) *Homes Reorganisation Committee:*

In December, 1953, the Government of India appointed a Committee with Shrimati A. John Matthai as Chairman to review policy in respect of the working of homes and infirmaries for destitute displaced persons from West Pakistan, and to make

recommendations about their future reorganisation, the provision of training and production facilities, the resettlement of inmates after training, education of dependents, rules for future admission, etc. The question of reorganisation of homes and infirmaries became necessary in view of the introduction of the interim compensation scheme. The Committee submitted its report in May, 1954. It was circulated at the conferences, which desired that the State Governments should be requested to send their views to the Central Government on the various recommendations made by the Committee.

An Advisory Committee was set up under the chairmanship of Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand to advise the Ministry on compensation matters. A total expenditure of Rs. 201.02 crores has so far been incurred on displaced persons from West and East Pakistan as follows:—

On displaced persons from West Pakistan. On displaced persons from East Pakistan. Total

(Rupees in crores)

| | | | |
|--|------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. Grants | .. 63.48 | 24.80 | 88.28 |
| 2. Loans | .. 21.72 | 17.07 | 38.79 |
| 3. Housing | .. 51.76 | 13.34 | 65.10 |
| 4. Establishments | .. 1.03 | .09 | 1.12 |
| 5. Miscellaneous | .. .01 | . | .01 |
| Total : | .. 138.00 | 55.30 | 193.30 |
| 6. Loans by the Rehabilitation Finance Administration. | .. .. | .. | 7.72* |
| Grand Total : | .. .. | .. | 201.02 |

The provision for 1954-55 is as follows:—

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Displaced persons from West Pakistan. | .. Rs. 13.81 crores |
| Displaced persons from East Pakistan. | .. Rs. 13.48 crores |
| Development of industries in the new townships for mitigation of unemployment. | .. Rs. .75 crores* |
| Rehabilitation Finance Administration. | .. Rs. 2.40 crores* |
| Total : | .. Rs. 30.44 crores |

[* Both for displaced persons from East Pakistan and West Pakistan.]

A brief account of the rehabilitation work done in each State will be found in the following paragraphs:—

AJMER

Grant of loans under the Small Urban Loans Scheme: A sum of Rs. 25,000/- was allotted to this State for grant of loans to displaced persons during the current financial year. Out of this allotment, loans to the extent of Rs. 19,380/- were disbursed to displaced persons.

Maintenance Allowance to Old and Infirm Displaced Persons: 166 widows and 281 old persons, namely, 447 persons in all, are receiving Maintenance Allowance. The total sum disbursed per month comes to Rs. 10,998/-. Out of these persons, 30 have been sanctioned Maintenance Allowance during the current financial year. Widows Home cum Training Centre was opened in Ajmer in February, 1950. It was transferred to the Trust for Sindhi Women and Children, Delhi, on 1.2.1951. The total sanctioned strength of the Home cum Training Centre is 300 and at present this number is split up into 150 inmates and 150 non-resident trainees. The trainees are imparted training in tailoring, embroidery, Niwar and tape making, carpet making, handloom and soap making, etc. The inmates are also given training in spinning and Paper-Bari making. The Home is full to the capacity at present. On an average the Government pay grant-in-aid to the Trust at the rate of Rs. 6,500/- p.m. besides the amount of Rs. 200/- each for the marriage of the dependent girls of the inmates.

Vocational Training Centre at Beawar: The scheme to start a small training centre for 50 displaced widows residing in Beawar was sanctioned by the Government of Ajmer in October, 1952, and the Training Centre was opened on 15.11.1952. At present only two trades viz., tailoring and spinning are taught and the terms of training are fixed at one year for each trade. The trainees are given stipends at the rate of Rs. 12/- per head per month during the period of training. At present, 43 destitute displaced women are receiving training.

Housing Scheme: The Government of India sanctioned a scheme for the construction of 296 houses—160 at Ajmer and 136 at Beawar, for displaced Harijans.

ASSAM

A fairly large number of displaced persons have come to Assam after obtaining migration certificates. This has added to the population of refugees which is now estimated at 3,40,000 approximately. Till the end of December, 1953, about 1,55,000 persons (to whom loans totalling Rs. 2,45,40,000/- were granted) were rehabilitated by Government and about one lakh by their own efforts. Of these many are seeking Government help in the shape of loans and financial assistance to students. In all about 75 per cent of displaced persons in Assam have by now been rehabilitated, though some of them only partially.

During the period under review about 1,500 destitute women and children were maintained at permanent liability. It is proposed to have 3 Central Homes for them.

In the field of education for displaced students, several steps have been taken. Besides the grant of financial assistance in the shape of stipends, fee remission and book grants, some training schemes viz., (i) training in paper making, book binding and printing etc., in the Government Paper Institute in Shillong; (ii) training in Weaving, Dyeing etc., in the Laban Weaving School; (iii) training in Nursing, Midwifery and Dhai in various institutions in Assam; and (iv) training in Cottage Industries in the Training-cum-work Centre in the district of Goalpara have been given effect to. A scheme is also in hand for training of about 120 students in Junior Technical Schools at Nowgong, Tezpur and Silchar and 40 students in Civil Engineering in the Assam Engineering School at Gauhati. Another scheme for extending 100 existing Primary Schools which may benefit about 4,000 displaced students, has also been taken up with the Government of India.

The Relief and Rehabilitation work in Cachar was taken over from the Central Government on the 15th February, 1953. Many displaced families, particularly those who were to be settled under I.T.A. Scheme were found to be in great distress. A sum of Rs. 1,00,000/- had, therefore, to be obtained from the Government of India for their immediate relief. This Government have taken steps to requisition available surplus tea garden lands for rehabilitation of displaced persons and have already formulated specific schemes for permanent rehabilitation of 6,000 families in Cachar District. Eleven schemes have already been sanctioned by the Government of India and sanction to the remaining ones is expected shortly.

Rehabilitation Schemes for about 1,400 families in other districts have been sanctioned by the Government of India and are being implemented.

In the sphere of Urban Housing, a scheme for about 1,200 families is under implementation.

During the period August, 1953 to December, 1953, 1,178 agriculturist families and 1,654 non-agriculturist (both rural and urban) families have been rehabilitated with loans of Rs. 6,15,830/- and Rs. 13,71,967/- respectively.

BHOPAL

The year under review witnessed a tangible progress achieved in the direction of rehabilitating displaced persons with the construction of Bairagarh township at a cost of over Rs. 40 lakhs. Situated at about 6 miles from the capital city of Bhopal, the township was opened by Shri Ajit Prasad Jain, Rehabilitation Minister, Government of India,

early this year. The new township, besides providing residential quarters for the D.P.s, is furnished with a High School and a first class dispensary while the shop and market places rival closely with their counterparts in the city of Bhopal. The township is fast becoming a flourishing place for trade and commerce as increasing amenities and facilities are proposed to be put at the service of the inhabitants of the area.

As part of the all-India Plan, a number of 156 claimants from among D.P.s in the State were paid interim compensation to the tune of Rs. 4,44,190. A total of 2,472 claimants had, in response to the Union Ministry of Rehabilitation Notification, filed claims for interim compensation. Further batches of D.P.s are proposed to be given like compensation during the course of the current year.

Against a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs, sanctioned for expenditure under urban loans scheme, Rs. 37,250/- were advanced to trainees for starting different trades in which they completed their courses.

Under rural loans scheme a sum of Rs. 3 lakhs was sanctioned, out of which Rs. 31,800/- have been utilised for payment of balance of taccavi to 60 families of D.P.s.

In Bairagarh, 170 families have formed themselves into groups with a view to carry on construction of further number of tenements and shops on issue of housing loans adjustable against their first instalment of compensation. In Israni-Bonarji Market, Bhopal, 20 tenements have been constructed by conversion of old shops. Fiftyfive shops of improved type were also constructed. Land was acquired near Bharat Talkies for putting up another unit of 82 residences.

For construction of cheap small hutments at Sehere by the D.P.s, an amount of Rs. 36,000 was sanctioned for distribution by the Collector of the District at the rate of Rs. 600/- per family.

Similarly, a sum of Rs. 35,000/- was allotted for expenditure on cash grants and stipends to D.P. students during the year under review. The number of students who availed of the benefit was 2,000.

BIHAR

The "relief" work in Bihar relating to displaced persons may be classified under two heads, viz., (i) relief to displaced persons in camps and (ii) relief to displaced persons outside the camps.

In 1953 relief camps continued to function in Bihar. The Transit Camp at Purnea admitted 1637 persons from time to time and sent them to the different rehabilitation sites as and when arrangements for their rehabilitation were made. The Camp closed down on the 1st April, 1954, after dispersing all the families to different rehabilitation centres. As the P. L. Camp at Gaya was not liked by displaced persons, they are lodged in the vacant hutments situated at five different places. At all

these places displaced persons are being given doles in cash at the rate of Rs. 12|- per adult and Rs. 8|- per child per month subject to a maximum of Rs. 50|-.

The overall position in respect of relief camps in Bihar on 31.3.1954 was as follows :—

| Name of Camp | Location | Population | | | Total | No. of doles | Remarks |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|-------|----------|-------|--------------|---|
| | | Family | Adult | Children | | | |
| 1. Bara Relief Camp | Jamshed-pur E. P. D. Ps. | 21 | 69 | 8 | 77 | nil | These were ordered to be registered and given house-building loans. |
| 2. Transit Camp | Purnea | x | x | x | x | nil | The camp was closed from 1.4.54. |
| 3. Bara Relief Camp | W. Jamshed-pur P. D. Ps. | 16 | 55 | 14 | 69 | nil | These were ordered to be registered and given house-building loans. |
| 4. Phulwari Relief Camp | Patna | 198 | 700 | 298 | 998 | nil | 94 of these families were ordered to be removed to 135 tenements constructed by Govt. at Chit-kohra but they refused. |

The Government of India placed a sum of Rs. 5,000|- at the disposal of the State Government for affording relief to persons in destitute condition. Out of this amount a sum of Rs. 3,923|- was spent during the year and 114 persons benefitted. The State Government received a further sum of over Rs. 5,000|- from charitable persons and others for the assistance of displaced persons from East Pakistan. These amounts were utilised for the benefit of displaced persons.

As regards the education and training of displaced students, 29 students from West Pakistan and 25 students from East Pakistan were granted stipends for their studies beyond Matriculation standard and the total expenditure incurred was Rs. 16,946|5|—Rs. 10,420|- on West Pakistan and Rs. 6,526|- on East Pakistan students. During the year under report 16 displaced girls from East Pakistan were granted stipends (13 at the rate of Rs. 30|- per month and 3 at Rs. 15|- per month) for training in vocational arts and crafts like knitting, tailoring, embroidery, leather work etc. The total expenditure on them was Rs. 3,240|-. Fifty-eight displaced trainees from East Pakistan completed their training under the Displaced Persons Training Scheme of the

Director-General of Resettlement and Employment under the Government of India, Ministry of Labour. These persons were trained in technical arts and crafts.

During the year houses have been constructed for non-agriculturist displaced persons from East and West Pakistan as shown in the table below :—

| Place | East Pakistan displaced persons | West Pakistan displaced persons |
|--------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Patna .. .. | .. .. | 150 |
| Jamshedpur | .. 60 (by D.Ps.) | 150 |
| | | 41 (by D.Ps.) |
| Ranchi . . . | .. .. | 80 (by D.Ps.) |

House-building loans to the following groups of families were also sanctioned for construction of houses and shops :—

| | | |
|--|-------|----------------|
| (a) 80 families from West Pakistan at Ranchi (2nd instalment) | .. .. | Rs. 1,14,250/- |
| (b) 82 families from West Pakistan at Samastipur @ Rs. 1800/- per family. | .. .. | Rs. 1,29,600/- |
| (c) 5 families from West Pakistan at Rajgir @ Rs. 1800/- per family. | .. .. | Rs. 9,000/- |
| (d) 30 families from West Pakistan at Daitonganj @ Rs. 500/- per family. | .. .. | Rs. 15,000/- |
| (e) 82 families from East Pakistan at Katihar @ Rs. 500/- and Rs. 1800/- | .. .. | Rs. 1,48,995/- |
| (f) 23 families from West Pakistan at Buxar @ Rs. 1800/- each. | .. .. | Rs. 41,400/- |
| (g) 17 families from East Pakistan at Jhumri-Tilaiya @ Rs. 1000/- for one roomed pucca house and Rs. 1250/- for two roomed houses. | .. .. | Rs. 18,500/- |

The tenements constructed by Government at Jamshedpur, Gaya, and Bellauri (in Purnea) were damaged during the summer of 1953 by severe storms and the following amounts were sanctioned as "grants" to displaced persons :—

| | | |
|---|-------|--------------|
| (i) In Jamshedpur | .. .. | Rs. 15,500/- |
| (ii) In Bellauri non-agriculturist colony (in Purnea) | .. .. | Rs. 6,324/- |

Besides a sum of Rs. 25,000/- was sanctioned by the State Government to afford relief to 21 families at Lalganj and 100 private settlers at Bellauri whose houses were seriously damaged due to severe cyclones. Improvements were also effected in the tenements constructed at Patna and Jamshedpur. In the tenements at Patna (Chitkohra) water pipes were provided at a total cost of Rs. 10,300/- and in the tenements for West Pakistan displaced persons at Jamshedpur provision for platforms for dustbins, bath and latrines were made.

House-building loans were also sanctioned in individual cases to 13 families during the year under report and the total expenditure was Rs. 23,900/-. So far 1864 agriculturist displaced persons have been rehabilitated.

Sixty-seven agriculturist families living outside camp in the district of Purnea were given rehabilitation loans amounting to Rs. 41,100/- during the year.

Works schemes for helping the families affected by heavy rainfall in 1953 in the State were drawn up by the State Government and were implemented with the approval of the Government of India. The total expenditure on the schemes was Rs. 53,375/-.

A number of schemes for rehabilitation of displaced persons living outside relief camp were submitted to the Government of India and are likely to be implemented in 1954-55. Out of these, 6 are Agriculturist Schemes and 11 are non-Agriculturist Schemes.

The Government of India, Ministry of Rehabilitation have permitted the State Government to give urban business loans to displaced persons from West Pakistan who have not received such loans previously from the State Government or the Rehabilitation Finance Administration to the extent of Rs. 6,00,000/- against their verified claims for properties left behind in West Pakistan. They have also allowed to grant loans to the extent of Rs. 39,825/- to those displaced persons from West Pakistan who have no verified claims.

BOMBAY

Housing and Rehabilitation: So far, 24,000 tenements have been constructed at various places and townships and colonies established involving an expenditure of Rs. 655 lakhs; and it is proposed to undertake further construction of nearly 7,600 tenements at various places at an estimated cost of Rs. 136 lakhs. Loans to the extent of Rs. 44.50 lakhs have also been advanced to Co-operative Housing Societies of displaced persons for construction of houses.

Most of the displaced persons who have migrated to this State prefer settling in urban occupations such as those of businessmen, shop-keepers, hoteliers etc., and a few of them belong to the class of skilled workers and to professional or agricultural classes. Efforts have been made to rehabilitate them into the professions to which they belonged and they were helped with grant of loans for restarting their business etc. Loans amounting to Rs. 142 lakhs have been granted to 22,927 displaced persons. The displaced persons belonging to the agricultural classes have been settled on the land and, so far, nearly 1,500 families have been rehabilitated at various places while loans amounting to Rs. 16.35 lakhs have been advanced to them for the purchase of implements, livestock, seeds, etc.

The vocational training and work facilities have been provided at the vocational and technical training centres; and nearly 4,500 persons have completed their training under the scheme.

Care of Destitutes: The destitutes from amongst the displaced

persons are looked after by Government and provided with food, accommodation and medical and educational facilities at Government cost. According to the policy of the Government of India, the destitutes are accommodated in regular homes or infirmaries. In addition to the Nari Seva Sadan at Ulhasnagar, two more homes have been organised at Sardarnagar in Ahmedabad, and Valivade near Kolhapur and they were handed over for management to the Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust. There are still about 5,000 destitutes residing outside the homes in Ulhasnagar township. Another home to provide accommodation for 2,000 destitutes is being organised at Ulhasnagar, while arrangements to open two infirmaries at Rander near Surat and at Dhulia in West Khandesh District to provide accommodation for the rest of the destitutes are being made.

Interim Compensation: The Government of India have now decided to pay compensation under the Interim Compensation Scheme to displaced persons in respect of their verified claims for the properties left behind in Pakistan, and has already commenced payments to the displaced persons falling under the priority categories. The sale of houses, tenements or plots in all rehabilitation townships and colonies has at present been restricted to displaced persons having claims and the cost of house etc., will be adjusted against their verified claims.

MADHYA PRADESH

The population of displaced persons in Madhya Pradesh is 1,12,771 representing about 28,600 families, of whom 84,000 were dispersed to this State by the Government of India and about 28,600 moved to this State of their own accord. The relief to the former was brought to an end in October, 1949, except in the case of widows, unattached women and their children, orphans, old and infirm persons.

The present number of displaced persons in receipt of Government assistances is 409 :—

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|------------|
| Women's Home in Nagpur | .. | .. | 204 |
| Infirmery at Betual | .. | .. | 91 |
| Infirmery at Bhandara | .. | .. | 19 |
| Individuals in various districts | .. | .. | 95 |
| TOTAL: | | | 409 |

The number of displaced persons granted cash allowance outside Home|Infirmery was 95. Fresh applications for this type of assistance were still being received.

Simultaneously with the introduction of de-ratoning scheme in April, 1949, displaced persons in nine relief camps with the exception of families in four camps were dispersed to various districts. This programme was completed by February, 1950.

THE SEVENTH YEAR OF FREEDOM

The selection of a site of 264 acres for a township at Katni has been finalised and a layout prepared. Housing accommodation is to be provided here for 1,240 families.

A layout for a township at Raipur has been prepared, and housing accommodation will be provided for 400 families.

Layouts have also been prepared for townships at Tilda and Chakrabhata on 110 and 150 acres respectively with accommodation for 450 and 615 families respectively.

Business loans varying from Rs. 500 to Rs. 5,000 per family amounting to Rs. 1,17,52,526 were given to 19,688 families.

Where the State Government could not provide displaced persons nazul sites for the construction of business premises, shop construction loans varying from Rs. 300 to Rs. 1,000 per family were granted. The amount of such loans granted to 4,343 families is Rs. 13,19,980.

The widespread dispersal of displaced persons from the relief camps to the districts was accompanied by a corresponding building programme. Accordingly 2,313 houses were constructed in 32 towns, temporary hutments were provided and at certain places private buildings taken on rent. Building sites and housing loans amounting to Rs. 39,59,619/- have been given to 7,014 families.

Loans amounting to Rs. 28,568/- have been granted to 47 students. The Government of India have so far granted loans totalling Rs. 3,64,23,000/-.

MADRAS

The rehabilitation of displaced persons from Pakistan in the State is being done in accordance with the scheme approved by Government. Generally speaking, the policy followed in the matter of rehabilitation is the one adopted by the Government of India. The scheme contemplates the grant of business and house loans to displaced persons. Each family is granted loans up to a maximum of Rs. 3,000/- for starting business allotted to it by Government. The loans are recoverable with interest in 36 to 60 equal monthly instalments. So far as house loans are concerned houses are constructed by Government in blocks and the appropriate cost is treated as house loans to displaced persons to whom they are allotted. The cost of each house is about Rs. 3,000 and it is recovered with interest in 120 equal monthly instalments commencing from the 13th month after the disbursement of the loan.

Both the business and house loans are advanced by Government from State funds and no financial assistance is received from the Central Government directly, but the latter have undertaken to bear 50 per cent bonafide losses sustained in the working of the scheme. Houses have been constructed and allotted to displaced persons at Coimbatore, Erode, Mangalore and Tiruchirapalli centres. About 360 families have been

rehabilitated in this State. The total amount of loan advanced to displaced persons is Rs. 6.75 lakhs. No displaced person in this State is without roofed accommodation. Some of them are living in houses built for them by Government while others in rented buildings pending provisions of permanent houses. Following the decision of the Government of India, the Madras Government have ordered postponement of recovery of business loans to three years with a view to giving the displaced persons sufficient time to settle down in their trades and to earn enough profits to commence repayment of their loans.

The majority of the displaced persons in the Madras State have settled down and are doing their business satisfactorily. But some are still disgruntled and have not properly accommodated themselves as yet. A few others have squandered the loan amounts and have been making impossible demands on the Government. The rehabilitation of this category of persons has become a problem for Government. Special staff has been employed in the Secretariat and at District Headquarters for implementing the rehabilitation scheme of the Government.

MYSORE

Of 8,731 persons consisting of 2,067 families who migrated to this State, 295 persons consisting of 107 families left the State to rehabilitate themselves in other States of the Union, thus leaving 8,436 persons consisting of 1,960 families in the State. Of these persons, 7,785 persons live in Bangalore, 581 persons in Mysore City and the rest in other districts.

ORISSA

Only one transit camp at Charbatia functioned in Orissa during the year. During the period under report a good number of deserters from Charbatia returned to the camp Charbatia due to the efforts of West Bengal Government. Approximately 3,500 displaced persons were accommodated in the relief camp here. The displaced persons gradually settled down and the able-bodied among them who are not given doles showed initiative in taking up seasonal jobs outside the camp to supplement the doles given to their dependents. Most of them found work in harvesting of paddy in the neighbouring fields. Health, sanitary and water supply arrangements remained satisfactory throughout the year. Special grants were made to help the displaced persons celebrate the Durga Puja and Saraswati Puja. On the eve of Durga Puja clothes were supplied to all displaced persons to enable them to celebrate the occasion in a festive mood.

A social worker appointed directly by Government of India, who is almost a friend, philosopher and guide of the displaced persons, stays at the camp and looks after their welfare.

During the year the State Government have decided to implement a new scheme styled House-Building Scheme only in safe and deserving cases. According to this scheme, a displaced person can obtain a loan of Rs. 3,250/- if he is willing to contribute a sum of Rs. 1,750/- towards the construction of the house. Further, a displaced person may obtain a loan of Rs. 5,000/- if he is willing to contribute a sum of Rs. 3,500 towards the construction of the house. During this year only one displaced person was sanctioned house-building loan and others will be given loan during the next financial year.

PUNJAB

The most outstanding measure taken by Government to help displaced persons during the year was the formation of the scheme for payment of compensation to them in respect of their properties abandoned in Pakistan. .

A sum of Rs. 65 lakhs has been earmarked for advancing loans to displaced persons for constructing houses in Chandigarh and other towns during current financial year. Industrial rehabilitation loans amounting to Rs. 8 lakhs, grant to displaced students of Rs. 16 lakhs, besides five lakhs, have been earmarked for shopping centres and Mandis to be built, and four lakhs for 8-marla Cheap Housing Schemes and 17 lakhs for water-supply and drainage facilities in new townships.

Special attention was paid this year to the removal of shortage of business premises. A flourishing grain market has been completed at Rohtak. A big cloth market is now under construction at Rohtak and a fairly big wholesale fruit and vegetable market too is planned to be built here. A pucca shopping centre has been provided at Amritsar, Pathankot and Ludhiana. Shopping centres are under construction at Jullundur and Hissar. Besides, construction of a small shopping centre at Ambala and Palampur has been sanctioned. Besides, a market for wholesale fruit and vegetable dealers has met the Government approval. Proposals to establish more mandis at Jalalabad, Fazilka and Hissar are under the active consideration of Government.

The Rehabilitation Colony at Nilokheri passed from the control of the Government of India to the Punjab Government during the year.

The concession given by the Government of India for the postponement of recoveries of loans to the extent of 10 per cent of their verified claims has afforded much-needed relief to displaced persons. This concession is now being extended to some other categories of loanees to whom it had not been extended in the past.

The work of allotment of land in Punjab has now reached its final stage and now the Rehabilitation Department is busy finding land for those whose claims have not been satisfied so far and correcting errors made in making allotments. A majority of allottees of land have now

settled on their holdings and are making an adequate contribution towards the Grow More Food Drive.

Besides, 41,400 acres of waste land have already been leased out to about 4,175 landless tenants. Similarly, more land will be leased out providing employment to an additional 2,000 families.

There is another scheme for providing cheap tenements to lower income groups of displaced persons at different places. Two thousand and two hundred tenements are under construction while steps for the construction of additional 3,000 tenements are being taken, which, it is hoped, will be ready by June, 1954. Nearly 19,000 mud-huts have also been transferred permanently to their occupants at concessional rates. These mud-huts were occupied by displaced persons from whom some rent was being charged.

RAJASTHAN

This was a big job well done. This work would have been arduous anywhere at any time. It was manifold more so in Rajasthan, since it was taken up and carried through at a time when the State itself was just merging into existence. At such a time, the sufferings of over 3 lakhs displaced persons were satisfactorily relieved and they are, by now, permanently, gainfully and comfortably absorbed in the economy and society of the new State.

Nearly 80% of the displaced persons have been settled on land in rural areas of Rajasthan and 20% in urban areas. This has been done on the basis of occupational character of the displaced persons settled in Rajasthan. Over 4.45 crores of rupees have been distributed as loans for rehabilitation purposes and more than 6.28 lakh acres of fertile land distributed to displaced cultivators. The Government also raised townships and colonies for them. About 1,092 houses and 1,375 shops and stalls have already been constructed for them. The work is at present in progress on 400 houses and plans have been finalised for 550 more houses and 542 shops. Special educational needs of displaced students have also been liberally attended to and 157 schools were opened. The schools have been manned by 475 refugee teachers wherein 13,081 students received free education. It can safely be said that there is adequate social security for displaced persons in Rajasthan and that they have now adopted the State as their own home.

SAURASHTRA

During the period under review, part payments of claims are being made to those displaced persons who are residing in Relief Homes or Camps. It is hoped that by the 15th of August, 1954, claims of more than 75 per cent of displaced persons would be satisfied.

At present there are 2,250 displaced persons in Relief Homes and 700 are expected to leave them after receipt of the amounts due to them under the Interim Relief Compensation Scheme.

The construction of 208 more houses in Jamnagar and 84 in Rajkot has been started and persons living in the Vandas (Government buildings and private buildings) will be shifted to new accommodation which is expected to be available by the middle of April next.

Approximately, a sum of Rs. 2,00,000 has been given for purposes of urban loans to the small scale industrialists and to successful trainees during the year under review. Similarly, a sum of Rs. 50,000 has been allotted for giving rural loans to displaced persons who are agriculturists.

Due to slump in trade many displaced persons who took to urban professions for want of availability of land are now being drawn to agricultural pursuits which they followed in Sind. Twenty refugee women went through the courses in Midwifery and 73 technicians passed through training in the Bantwa Works Centre and the Morvi Technical Institute.

About Rs. 40,000 have been given to D.Ps, and Rs. 2,000/- to students on account of financial assistance from Primary classes to Collegiate course.

UTTAR PRADESH

The backbone of the problem of rehabilitation of displaced persons in U.P. has already been broken. As a result of the construction of hundreds of houses and shops a vast majority of the persons who came from West Pakistan after partition are back on their feet. During the year 267 more families of displaced persons from East Pakistan arrived in Rudrapur colonization area in Nainital district for resettlement there. These families have already been provided with accommodation in the 15 newly constructed houses and in towns and are subsequently to be allotted single-room tenements the construction of which has been proposed in 24 new villages near about Rudrapur. An 8-acre piece of broken land has to be provided to every resettled family, in addition to a sum of Rs. 400 for the purchase of agricultural implements and another sum of Rs. 450 for maintenance. The State Government Scheme envisaged the resettlement of 1,000 families of displaced persons from East Pakistan in the colonization area. As the year closed, only a few families remained to arrive.

With a view to eliminating congestion on road *Patries* and providing better facilities for displaced shopkeepers, Government prepared a plan for the replacement of timber stalls by *Pucca* shops. They also decided to establish two production centres, one in Lucknow and the other at Allahabad, to rehabilitate displaced women from East Pakistan who had been trained in vocational trades at the residential industrial home in Chunar in Mirzapur district. The Ministry of Rehabilitation, Government of India, sanctioned a grant amounting to over Rs. 1.50 lakhs for

running the Bapu Vocational Training Institute at Dehra Dun till March 31, 1954. Financial assistance continued to be given to a large number of displaced students with a view to enabling them to pursue their studies.

The Government of India decided to make allotment of evacuee groves or evacuee shares and composite groves in U.P., the *Bagh Bahar* (fruits) of which were auctioned annually, to displaced persons, whose claims for agricultural land-groves-gardens had been duly admitted and verified under the Displaced Persons (Claims) Act, 1950. The scheme of allotment was in the first instance taken up in selected districts of U.P., specially Meerut, Saharanpur, Dehra Dun, Muzaffarnagar, Bulandshar, Bijnor and Moradabad.

For the allotment of available evacuee agricultural land to non-Punjabi displaced persons against their verified land claims, the State Government invited applications by May 31, 1954. Under instructions from the Government of India they also decided to waive the recovery of (i) loans of Rs. 300 or less given for business, trade and industry under the Small Urban Loans Scheme and (ii) all loans given for education (other than education abroad) irrespective of their amount, to displaced persons who had no verified claims under the Displaced Persons (Claims) Act, 1950. Both the unrecovered principals and interests on these loans as on March 31, 1954, were to be remitted.

VINDHYA PRADESH

Relief and Rehabilitation: A sum of Rs. 10,000/- was allotted by the Centre for grant of financial assistance during the year 1953-54 to the displaced students and trainees from West Pakistan.

Rehabilitation grant, maintenance or marriage allowances in the State aggregating to Rs. 33 lakhs were granted in 1953.

The construction of 610 single-room more tenements have been sanctioned. The State P.W.D. has taken up the work which is in progress.

WEST BENGAL

Government's efforts to rehabilitate refugees from Eastern Pakistan are showing tangible progress. Out of 25,85,277 refugees now in West Bengal as many as 14,76,940 have been resettled up to December, 1952. Expenditure on Relief between 1947 and December, 1953 is Rs. 158,345,481; on Rehabilitation Rs. 47,131,572 and on Loans Rs. 177,055,127.

The total number of refugees in camps and Homes up to December, 1953 was, transit camps 23,607, ordinary camps 25,881, camp colonies 5,667, and worksite camps 10,214. Unattached worker together with old and disabled men and children in permanent liability, camps number 34,900.

Up to December last, 9,005 refugee families were settled on

Government lands and a total of 13,187 agricultural and 38,911 non-agricultural families on fallow or unused lands acquired by Government, the latter being also given loans and building materials to build their houses. Nearly 15,979 refugee families particularly artisans, have been absorbed in the economic set-up of villages in co-operation with presidents and members of union boards and social workers, Government helping these families with loans at different stages. Refugees have also acquired 59,261 agricultural plots of private land and 87,090 non-agricultural plots of private lands by direct negotiations with land-owners, Government granting loans for homestead lands. Government have also built 5,687 houses for distribution to refugees.

Government have also granted Rs. 7,30,606 to colleges in the form of loans or grants, Rs 33,38,713 to secondary schools for the education of refugees and 9 secondary schools have been started with a total Government loan of Rs. 4,72,411. Vocational and technical training also are being given to refugee youngmen on an extensive scale.

Women refugees receiving training in various arts and crafts in camps, homes and training centres number over 1,300. Employment for over 47,547 refugees was secured up to December, 1953.

LAND REFORMS IN INDIA

Pages 451

By H. D. MALAVIYA

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SOME OPINIONS

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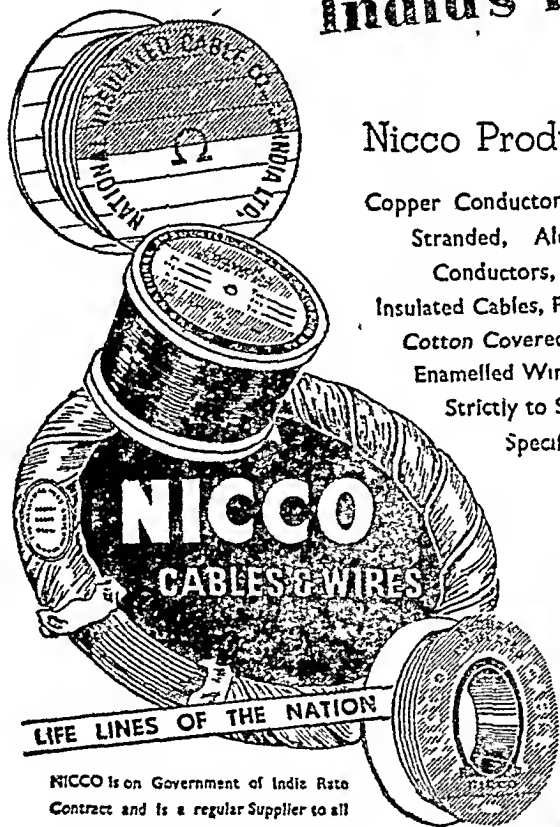
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CHAPTER XIII

LAND REFORMS

The seventh year of freedom witnessed further progress in the abolition of intermediary interests between the State and the tiller. Abolition of Zamindaris, Jagirdaris and other parasitic systems was either completed or well under way to completion in almost all the States of the Indian Union except West Bengal, Assam and Rajasthan. West Bengal came very late in the field, but there too the West Bengal State Assembly passed the West Bengal Estates Acquisition Bill, which has since received the Presidential assent. A conference of District Officers and other allied persons was held recently to draw up the final plan for the acquisition of intermediary interests and the acquisition is likely to commence in the near future. The problem of intermediaries affects only a small area in the plain districts of Assam and it had passed the necessary abolition legislation long ago. The delay in actual abolition has been due to certain legal and technical formalities and would be accomplished ere long. Acquisition of Jagirdari interests in Rajasthan was held up on account of protracted negotiations between the State Government and the representatives of the Jagirdars with a view to arrive at an amicable settlement and avoid recourse to law courts. These negotiations were successful and about two months ago the State Government acquired some of the bigger Jagirdaris. The process of acquisition of Jagir interests is likely to be completed by the end of this year.

Abolition of all intermediary interests between the State and the tiller has been the starting point of Congress land legislations in the post-Independence period, but the Congress has always proclaimed that this alone will not solve the problems of our peasantry. Abolition of parasitic landlordism only clears the path for further advance and post-abolition reforms are equally important in order to finally emancipate our peasant masses. Naturally, therefore, having to a large extent abolished the vested landed interests, the Congress Governments in the seventh year of freedom gave greater and greater attention to the post-abolition reforms. The signal for this emphasis was given by the meeting of the All-India Congress Committee at Agra on July 7 and 8, 1953. More than ordinary significance is to be attached to the resolution it adopted on 'Social and Economic Programme', as it emphasised the need of fixing ceiling on existing holdings with a view to effect a redistribution of land. It said:—

"The pace of progress must, however, be quickened, more especially in regard to land reform and industrial growth. The Committee attaches the greatest importance to the introduction of far-reaching land reforms in India. While progress has been made in this direction by several State Governments, much yet remains to be done in order to make the actual tillers of the soil the owners of the land. The State Governments should take immediate steps in regard to the collection of the requisite land data and the fixation of ceiling on land holdings, with a view to redistribute the land, as far as possible, among landless workers."

After July A.-I.C.C., the Congress met in its 59th Session at Kalyani on 23rd and 24th January, 1954, and again in its resolution on Planning and Economic Development reiterated the importance of carrying through far-reaching agrarian reforms with a speed in order to build up Welfare State in our motherland. The resolution on 'Planning and Development', among other things, said: "Future progress should envisage the completion of land reforms so as to make actual tillers of the soil owners of the land."

In the year under review the phenomenal progress achieved by Acharya Binova Bhave's Bhoodan Movement further created the background for far-reaching land reforms involving the fixation of ceiling on land holdings and redistribution of land among the landless people. In order to fulfil this task in a scientific manner, the Planning Commission, which in its final report has already recommended the fixation of ceiling and land holdings, decided to carry through a land census and with that purpose necessary instructions and circulars were issued to the State Governments. The land census is undoubtedly a colossal operation, involving as it does our huge country. According to reports received the final census is likely to be completed by the end of this year. In the following lines we would attempt to give a brief account of land reforms introduced in different States during the seventh year of freedom.

The West Bengal Estates Acquisition Act to which we have referred earlier provides for the procedure and machinery for acquisition by the State of all estates and rights of intermediaries and Jotdars therein. Under the provisions of the bill, all rights in estates including rights in subsoil, mines and minerals, *hats*, bazars, ferries, forests, fisheries, *tolle* and other *Sairati* interests free from all encumbrances other than the rights of a raiyat, under-raiyat or a non-agricultural tenant will vest in Government. An intermediary will, however, be entitled to retain his homestead land, land comprised in or appertaining to buildings or structures, non-agricultural lands in *Khas* possession up to a limit of 15 acres but not exceeding 20 acres including the homestead land, agricultural land in *Khas* possession up to 25 acres. For acquisition of the interests of such persons compensation will be paid,

In Punjab, efforts to give the tiller of the soil a position of honour and self-reliance were continued with determination. The Punjab Security of Land Tenures Act went a long way in solving the major problems of tenants, namely, security of tenure and fair rent. Eviction of tenants assumed serious proportions and efforts were made to effect compromise as far as possible. The Government announced special concessions for tenants to contest their liability to ejection in the form of exemption from court fee and obtaining certified copies of revenue records. Government have also prepared a scheme with a view to offering land for cultivation to such ejected tenants as might lose employment altogether. The Government have also decided to lease out all available waste land, whether evacuee or non-evacuee or land belonging to evacuee religious institutions, to ejected tenants who have become landless or those who possess land not exceeding two acres.

In Madhya Pradesh, where the abolition of the Malguzari system has been completed much earlier, attention was given to regulation of the nistar of villagers, consistent with the proper conservation of forests. In order to settle all grazing and nistar problems a special organisation of Nistar Officers was set up in the reorganised department of land reforms. Conditions were laid down for the management of the large number of tanks vested in the State Government under the Madhya Pradesh Abolition of Proprietary Rights Act. Out of about 45,000 villages, the Nistar Officers were able to complete preliminary work in 2,85,000 villages up to March 31, 1954. They assessed lands held by proprietors in about 8,000 villages, prepared lists of *abadi* lands, tanks and other public purposes in 15,000 villages, and recorded Nistar rights in about 11,300 villages. Land fit for cultivation in about 5,900 villages was assessed during the period. Enquiries about grazing and nistar problems were completed in about 5,500 villages.

Madras Government undertook several legislations in the seventh year of freedom to protect the interest of cultivating tenants and to prevent agrarian agitation. The land tenure system prevailing in Malabar differs from the systems in other parts of the State because of its multiplicity and complexity of sub-tenures and the existence of a series of intermediaries between the Jenmies and the cultivating tenants. The Malabar Tenancy Act was amended in 1954. This Act gives absolute fixity of tenure to a cultivating tenant and to occupants of homesteads of agricultural labourers and other workers. The Government also extended the benefits of Tanjore tenants and Pannaiyal Protection Act of 1952 with effect from 1st July, 1953 to a few village of Cuddalore Taluk of the South Arcot District. It was reported to the Government that land owners in the South Kanara District had been evicting cultivating tenants on an increasing scale. Pending comprehensive legislation, the Government enacted

South Kanara Cultivating Tenants Protection Act, 1954, which provides that, subject to payment of current rent, no cultivating tenant should be evicted from the holding for a period of one year from the date the Act comes into force.

Land reforms in *Uttar Pradesh* have been of a most comprehensive nature and the acquisition of intermediary interests was completed nearly two years ago. Nearly 1,30,000 acres of vacant land came into the hands of the State Government after the end of the Zamindari system. About 38 lakh acres were reserved for afforestation in tracts like the Tarai, Mirzapur and Bundelkhand. Another very important development in U. P. has been the setting up of land Management Committees under the U. P. Gaon Samaj Manual. These Land Management Committees are representative bodies and have been given far-reaching rights over the management of village vacant lands and other allied matters. Apropos the abolition of Zamindari system, the court of Wards was wound up finally with effect from March 31, 1954. Up to April 28, 1954, the State Public Debt Office issued over 8,500 Zamindari compensation bonds of the aggregate value of Rs. 40,59,950. Up to April 30, 1954, applications for interim compensation received were 2,17,894. Out of these, 2,10,351 applications were disposed of and a sum of Rs. 380,10,093 was paid thereon. Applications received for interim annuities totalled 4,677. Out of these, 4,319 were disposed of and a sum of Rs. 232,06,074 was paid thereon. The total number of intermediaries effected by Zamindari abolition on July 1, 1952 was about 30.17 lakhs. The total amount payable on account of compensation to these intermediaries was expected to be Rs. 75 crores. Out of this it was estimated that Rs. 10 crores were to be paid in cash and the rest in bonds. The Government also had earlier announced important changes in the character of Zamindari Abolition Compensation Bonds. It was decided to issue negotiable bonds. The interest together with principal of the bonds was to be paid in equated annual instalments on 1st July every year. The period of redemption remained 40 years and the rate of interest $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Amongst other important measures, mention may be made of the Consolidation of Holdings Act enforced on March 8, 1954. The Act is calculated to lead ultimately not only to a substantial increase in the yield from land, but also to a considerable decrease in litigation and feuds among farmers.

The principle underlying abolition of landlordism during the past few years has been that no intermediary is left between Government and the cultivator. With this end in view, the *Bombay State* Government has already abolished the various kinds of intermediary tenures like Maleki, Khoti, Nalwari, Talukadari, etc., which obtain in very small parts of the State. It should be remembered that *Bombay* is mainly a Ryotwari area and the State Government has shown great awareness of the need

to confer greater rights on the Ryoti tenants. With this end in view, the State Government passed in 1947 and 1948 its famous Tenancy Act. In the year under review the State Government extended the abolition of intermediary system to minor Inams of a miscellaneous nature which existed in a number of districts.

Bihar may take the credit of being the first State to have decided upon abolition of the zamindari system, but the actual acquisition of intermediary estates was delayed very much by the obstructionist tactics of the landlords in the seventh year of freedom. However, Bihar completed the acquisition of almost all the big estates and only very few estates remained to be acquired and the process is likely to be completed ere long. The most remarkable feature about the land reforms in Bihar is the creation of a comprehensive administration machinery to take up the functions of the landlords after abolition. Under this Scheme the State Government has divided the whole State into 400 circles. Each circle consisting of 175-200 villages in charge of a gazetted officer. The staff which would be appointed will serve as an integrated staff for all departments of Government, and will perform not only revenue duties, but also duties in connection with the supervision of Gram Panchayats, Agricultural Extension Services, collection of agricultural statistics, execution of the development plans of the Government, etc.

In *Rajasthan* in the year 1949 an Ordinance was promulgated to prevent the ejection of tenants by the land-holders who had been in possession of their holdings on and after April 1, 1948. This enactment greatly ameliorated the uncertainty of possession of the land by the tenants. As said earlier in this chapter, the recent negotiations between the State Government and the Jagirdars represented by the Kshatriya Maha-Sabha have been successful after which the *Rajasthan Land Reforms and Resumption of Jagirs Act, 1952*, was suitably amended to give effect to the award. All Jagirs with an annual income of Rs. 5 lakhs were acquired on June 15 last and Jagirs of lower incomes were acquired a week later. The process of acquisition is now on and the final abolition is likely to be completed within a few months. Now the State Government has given attention to the question of land reforms after abolition. Immediate attention is being given to the question of fixing a ceiling on land holdings and the matter is being inquired into.

The seventh year of freedom has been a landmark in the history of agrarian reforms in *Saurashtra*. It may be mentioned that the Land Reforms Act and the Barkhali Abolition Act and the Estate Acquisition Act abolished the various intermediary systems of the State more than two years ago. The total number of applications filed by Girasdars for allotment of land for personal cultivation was 13,990, of which 13,575 have been disposed of. Allotment for personal cultivation is made to

5,874 Barkhalidars and 11,686 Barkhalidars have been given occupancy rights over 1,46,223 acres of Jirayat land and 9,112 acres of Bagayat land. Out of 31,567 applications of Barkhali tenants 25,010 applications have been disposed of, as a result of which Barkhali tenants have acquired occupancy rights over 3,47,425 acres of Jirayat Land and 18,785 acres of Bagayat land. In the seventh year of freedom the Government enacted two important legislations connected with—(i) The prevention of Fragmentation and Regulation of Holdings Act, and (ii) The Prohibition of Leases Act. Another step was the enactment of Saurashtra Agricultural Debtors' Relief Act. The Act takes into consideration the peculiar conditions of Saurashtra and attempts to solve the problem of agricultural indebtedness in a practical and realistic manner.

In *Madhya Bharat* a uniform system of land revenue has been enforced. Land tenure system, at the time of the formation of the State, was partly Ryotwari and partly zamindari. Zamindaries are already abolished and Jagirdaris are also to be abolished under the Jagirdari Abolition Act. The Supreme Court has rejected the appeal of the Jagirdars for invalidating the Act. Under the new system *Pucca* tenancy rights are being given to the cultivators of land.

On 29th August, 1953, the following two acts were enforced into PEPSU:—

- (i) The Abolition of Ala Malkiat Rights Act, 1953.
- (ii) The Occupancy Tenants (vesting of proprietary rights) Act, 1953.

The implementation of these two acts has almost been completed. A third law, Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1953 (Act VIII of 1953), was enacted on 18th November, 1953 and enforced on 3rd December, 1953. Under this Act, valuable rights have been vested in tenants-at-will. Casual ejectments have been stayed and under certain conditions, right of purchase holdings under their cultivation has been given to tenants. Maximum rent has been fixed at 1½. Right to effect improvements on holdings has also been secured to tenants. It is expected that the condition of tenants will improve a good deal in course of time. Rules under the Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1953 have been issued.

Having abolished the system of Jagirdaries and other exploiting feudal tenures, the State Government of Hyderabad took a very important step towards land reforms by introducing Hyderabad Tenancy Agricultural Lands Bill of 1953. This Bill envisages a pattern of Peasant Proprietorship and sought to remove existing inequalities of land so that agricultural efficiency and production may increase. For future acquisitions the Bill gave the term Family Holding rather than the commonly used term Economic Holding. The Family Holding has been defined as

system will be disintegrated by divesting the Zamindars, who are merely a body of peasant proprietors, of some of their rights and placing them more or less on the same level as tenants with security of tenure. At the same time, with a view to creating a democratic peasantry with equal rights, the Bill raises the existing tenants to the level of peasant proprietors. The scheme of abolition evolved is calculated to attain abolition at minimum cost of the State. The Act provides for the acquisition of Zamindari rights by the tenants by the payment of ten times the rent. A very commendable feature of the Bill is the Provision made for the Sub-tenants and tenants-at-will, whose rents have been considerably lower.

The *Bhopal State Jagirdari Abolition and Land Reforms Bill* passed in August, 1953, provides for the acquisition by the State of all right of the Jagirdar over Jagiri lands, orchards, trees, forests, fisheries, wells, tanks, pathways, village, abadi, mela grounds, hats and bazars, mines and minerals and river banks, free from all encumbrances. All the rent and cess realised by the Jagirs will in future be paid to the Government. The Jagirdars have been entitled to keep with themselves lands under their personal cultivation. They will also be allowed to retain possession of their home-yards and other house property, places of worship, trees, wells for their personal use and orchards and groves planted by themselves. A special feature of the *Bhopal State* is that 60 out of the total number of 99 Jagirdars of the State applied for voluntary termination of their Jagirs against grants of Mansab (cash annuities) by the Government. The Government agreed to the proposal. The total amount of Mansabs which will be given to the 60 Jagirdars will be more than Rs. 6,31,356 each year. It will be paid into six equal monthly instalments. The total amount of compensation payable to the remaining Jagirdars of the State comes to about Rs. 7,71,356.

There is no Zamindari or Jagirdari system in Coorg. The only system prevailing is Ryotwari. The grant of fresh lands to persons already owning lands, particularly above 50 acres, has been practically stopped by executive instructions, and active steps are being taken to grant land for cultivation of house-site to landless poor and to those who own uneconomic holdings. There was a redistribution of the territorial jurisdiction of revenue divisions by which the whole State has been divided into three taluks instead of two and 11 nads instead of 9. (Nads mean revenue Sub-divisions under Taluks).

It would be clear from the foregoing paras that believing, as the Congress does, in a peaceful social transformation towards a Welfare State, its Governments in the States, as also in the Centre, have been giving more and more attention to the question of land reforms. Land is the most important and most urgent problem and at the same time its vastness

LAND REFORMS

and magnitude is of tremendous dimensions. In spite of what the critics may say, any impartial observer will have to concede that the Congress regimes on the whole have shown a great awareness of the intensity of the land problem, and have given their thought to this question as probably to none other.

As we said in the beginning of this chapter, Acharya Vinoba's Bhoodan Movement, which today has drawn world-wide attention, has broken absolutely new grounds in evolving a method for solving the land problem based upon Gandhian technique. Acharya Vinoba Bhave's Bhoodan Movement in the seventh year of freedom has very much advanced towards its target of 5 crore acres. Acharya Vinoba Bhave has been concentrating in the State of Bihar and the Sarvodaya Conference held at Bodh Gaya in April, 1954, which was attended amongst others by the President of the Indian Republic, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the Vice-President Dr. Radha Krishnan, our Prime Minister and Congress President Shri Jawaharlal Nehru and the Congress General Secretary Shri S. N. Agarwal, further revealed the increasing power of the Bhoodan Movement. Bhoodan Movement has become a rallying point to workers of all political parties—the Congress, the P. S. P., etc., for forging the sanction of the masses for a peaceful social transformation towards the India of Gandhiji's dream.

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CHAPTER XIV

PANCHAYATS AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

PANCHAYATS

The following resolution was adopted by the Congress Working Committee at its meeting held on the 23rd May, 1954 in New Delhi : "The Working Committee have noted with appreciation the progressive introduction of the Panchayat system in various parts of India. This is not only in keeping with the ancient tradition of India, but is suited to present-day conditions. A modern State tends inevitably to become more and more centralised. This tendency should be balanced by the growth of local self-governing institutions, so that the mass of the people should themselves participate in this business of administration and in other aspects of community life, social, economic and judicial. This can best be done by the development of Panchayats in the villages of India. These Panchayats should have an administrative functioning as well, as a judicial function.

The Committee particularly welcome the establishment of *Nyaya* or judicial panchayats which should reduce the burden on the regular courts and make justice available on the spot in a considerable number of relatively petty matters and thus make it both speedy and inexpensive also.

Such Panchayats should be developed throughout the country in accordance with local conditions and traditions and represent the entire community in the area concerned, irrespective of caste or creed.

In view of the importance of this subject, the Working Committee appoint a Committee consisting of :

(1) Dr. Kailash Nath Katju, (2) Shri Jagjiwan Ram, (3) Shri Gulzarilal Nanda, (4) Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir, (5) Shri Keshava Deva Malaviya, and (6) Shri Shriman Narayan Agarwal (Convener), to consider this question in all its aspects, including reports of the working of the Panchayats in various States, and report to the next meeting of the Working Committee which is going to be held prior to the Ajmer Session of the A.-I.C.C."

The Committee submitted its Report to the Working Committee at Ajmer on July 24, 1954. The recommendations of the Committee has been published.

According to the Report of the Census Commissioner for India in regard to the Census of India, 1951, there are 5,58,089 villages and 3,018

towns in our country. Out of a total of 3,569 lakhs of people, 2,950 lakhs (roughly five-sixths) live in villages and 619 lakhs (roughly one-sixths) live in towns. If the entire country is divided into squares of an area of 25 sq. miles (i.e., 5 miles length and five breadth) there will be 47,074 such squares. If the villages in India are grouped in such squares, there will be 47,074 such village groups, each group comprising in round figures about 12 villages on an average and the total population will vary from about 4,000 to 12,000 inhabitants. The average population in each such group will, however, vary in each zone. While in North India, a village group within 25 sq. miles has a population of about 12,000, in the South and East India it is about 9,000 and 8,000 respectively. However, in the West, Central and North-West India the population is in the order of 5,000, 4,000 and 3,500 respectively. Broadly speaking, on an average the majority of the village groups within the 25 sq. miles area have a population averaging about 6,000 to 7,000. About 75 per cent of the villages of India have less than 2,000 inhabitants, while about 5% of the villages have a population of over 5,000.

The pattern of the Village Panchayats varies in the different States of India. In a number of States *Gaon Sabhas* or *Gram Sabhas* have been established in every village covering a population of 1,000 or more. However, in areas where there are no villages within 3 miles radius of a particular village, a separate *Gaon Sabha* is established for such a village, even though the population of that village is less than one thousand. If the villages are closeby they are combined to form only one Panchayat, even if the population is above 5,000. In certain other States the Panchayat Raj is administered in two or three tiers, viz., Gram Panchayat, Kendra Panchayat and Mandal Panchayat. At the lowest level the primary Panchayats or Gram Panchayats are given certain municipal functions. Kendra Panchayat, or the combination of a certain number of Gram Panchayats, are given certain administrative functions as well and the Mandal Panchayat, which combines a few Kendra Panchayats, is given such functions as management of schools, dispensaries, hospitals, etc. In certain other States, Nyaya Panchayat or *Adalati* Panchayat establishes one Court for all of them. In certain other States the State Government specifies the local limits and jurisdiction of each Gram Sabha or the Panchayat. In certain States, Panchayats which cater for a population of more than a thousand are divided into wards. Panchayats have as many as five or six wards and cater, therefore, for a population of five to six thousand persons. Below would be found a report of Panchayat working in some States of the Indian Union.

AJMER

The Ajmer State Gram Panchayat Raj Act, 1953, was introduced in the State Assembly and has been passed. The Act seeks to establish

and develop self-government in the rural areas of the State. It is intended to foster and develop a spirit of common endeavour to ameliorate their conditions without being unduly dependent on Government. The Act is of far-reaching character and significance and gives power to the village people to manage their affairs.

BOMBAY

Every effort has been made to build up the Village Panchayat as a strong self-contained unit that could manage its own affairs efficiently and cater to the administrative as well as social and cultural needs of the village community. Although it is obligatory for Government to establish a Panchayat in every village with a population of 2,000, Panchayats exist in villages that have a smaller population but where efficient working of the Panchayat has been assured. The proposal to establish a Panchayat in villages with a population of not less than 1,000 each is also under the consideration of Government.

The existing number of Panchayats in the State exceeds 5,800. The scope of the Panchayat's functions and authority has been increased considerably and substantial finances have been made available to the Panchayat to execute the village works and carry out other functions. A grant of 15% of the ordinary land revenue or 25% of the local fund cess, whichever is greater, amounting to Rs. 32,39,200 three-fourths of the salary and allowances of the Village Panchayat secretaries amounting to Rs. 21,42,800, 50% of dearness allowance, paid to the Panchayat staff amounting to Rs. 9,38,000 and initial grants of Rs. 100 for every new Village Panchayat amounting to Rs. 1,32,700 have been provided for during 1954-55.

Social officers and honorary organisers have been appointed to foster healthy growth of the Panchayats and the three divisional Directors of Local Authorities supervise the activities of Village Panchayats and make their inspections periodically.

As in the case of other local bodies, the Bombay Village Panchayats Act, 1933, has been amended to include certain provisions of the Representation of People Act and to extend the normal term of office of the members of the village panchayats to four years.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

From 15th August last to date, 280 Gram Panchayats have been notified. Election of the Panchas is in progress. Nyaya Panchayats will take some months yet to be established.

MADHYA BHARAT

In 1949, the Madhya Bharat Panchayat Act was passed and elections were held in 1951. In Madhya Bharat today there are 4,111 Village Panchayats, 225 Kendra Panchayats and 225 Nyaya Panchayats. All the districts have a Mandal Panchayat equivalent to a District Board.

To make provision of funds for the Panchayats to carry out development work, land tax, house tax and labour tax have been imposed. Two pice per rupee is charged from the cultivators on the land revenue and equal amount is contributed by the Government to the Panchayat Fund. Every adult between 21 and 50 years of age has to pay labour tax in the form of voluntary labour to the respective Panchayat or in default to pay money equivalent to double the value of the labour tax.

Nyaya Panchayats generally are empowered to deal with civil cases up to the value of Rs. 100 only but in special cases a Nyaya Panchayat can be vested with powers to deal with cases of value extending to Rs. 500.

MADHYA PRADESH

There are 96 Janapada Sabhas in the State. The recent creation and abolition of some tehsils and changes in boundaries of the tehsils will have a spontaneous effect on the number and jurisdiction of the Janapada Sabhas concerned. On an average, a Janapada area consists of about 1,400 square miles and has a population of about 2.25 lks.

The first Sabhas were nominated. Elections have recently been held and the elected bodies are in office now.

The work of establishment of Gram Panchayats has been spread over three stages. The first stage consists of the establishment of Panchayats in villages having a population of 1,000 and above; the second is the establishment of Panchayats in villages with a population of 500 to 1,000, and the third stage covers villages with a population below 500.

The preliminary work was completed by the end of 1949 and all villages having a population of 1,000 have now a Gram Panchayat except some villages in Berar. The second stage of establishment of Gram Panchayats is in process, and the State today has 6,866 Gram Panchayats.

Nyaya Panchayats, which are village courts for the dispensation of justice in specified spheres, are closely linked with the establishment of Gram Panchayats. There are 1,269 Nyaya Panchayats functioning at present in the State.

ORISSA

During the year the Intensive Gram Panchayat Scheme was pushed through vigorously. Under this scheme a Gram Panchayat is established in a number of villages with a population of ordinarily 5,000 to 7,000 and an anticipated income of Rs. 2,500 a year. Intensive Panchayats have been established during the year in the districts of Balangir, Sundergarh, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Koraput, Sambalpur, Ganjam and Kalahandi (minus Sadar Sub-division). Besides reorganisation of some of the existing Panchayats, as many as 774 new Panchayats were established during

the year. Elections to most of the new Panchayats have been completed. In some cases, elections are still in progress. But in the case of Ganjam District, elections to the new Panchayats have been put off, for the time being, owing to popular demands for effecting some further changes in the formation of the Panchayats. The Panchayat elections have been keenly contested almost everywhere. This is indicative of the increasing interest which people have begun to take in Panchayat affairs.

Of the new Panchayats, 413 have been given an initial grant-in-aid of Rs. 150 each during the year. The rest will get similar grants during 1954-55. A number of urban and semi-urban Gram Panchayats maintained sanitation staff and were given a dearness allowance grant by Government for the maintenance of such staff. A sum of Rs. 50,000 was distributed amongst some Panchayats out of the Motor Vehicle Taxation grant for maintenance of motorable roads in the Panchayat area. Government decided to give grants up to 50% of the Kendu leaf income to Gram Panchayats for the development works. A sum of Rs. 9,76,400 was distributed amongst the Gram Panchayats on this account during the year. Funds were also allotted for construction of 189 Grain Golas at Gram Panchayat headquarters in addition to 340 Golas already constructed. A number of ponds, ferries, public tanks and markets were transferred to Gram Panchayats during the year to enable them to improve their finances with the income from these sources.

The number of Adalati Panchayats which was 179 during 1952-53 increased to 205 next year. The Adalati Panchayats disposed of quite a good number of petty civil suits and criminal cases.

Gram Panchayats took greater interest in development works and welfare activities in their areas. The activities were noticed more in the enlightened Panchayats situated in urban and semi-urban areas. Other Panchayats did not lack in interest, but owing to the small number of supervising officers it was not possible to give them the amount of guidance they needed. Steps have been taken to appoint more Panchayat Organisers during 1954-55.

PUNJAB

A network of Gram Panchayats has been established all over the State under the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952. Last year 9,177 Gram Panchayats in 16,455 revenue estates in the State were established. Under the new Gram Panchayat Act all the villages in Punjab with a population of 500 or more have a Gram Panchayat. Villages with a lesser population have been grouped with bigger villages. The Gram Panchayat consists of 5 to 9 Panchas elected by direct vote of the people—every adult male and female having the right of vote. Special reservation has been provided for the Scheduled Castes till January 26, 1960. The Panchayats have been given wide administrative and judicial powers.

During the year 1953-54, a sum of Rs. 25.74 lakhs has been made available to the Panchayats including Rs. 16.30 lakhs as 10% land revenue. Besides, a sum of Rs. 5.92 lakhs has been provided to strengthen the Panchayat Deptt., during the current financial year. The gross total of all expenditure on Panchayats thus comes to Rs. 31.66 lakhs in 1953-54 as against 10.97 lakhs and 19.27 lakhs during 1951-52 and 1952-53 respectively. This is an indication of developing real democracy in the State.

This enactment is the first step towards decentralisation of administration. It is proposed to turn the villages into autonomous republics by successive measures. This would be the realisation of Ram Raj, the cherished ideal of the Father of the Nation.

The Government have also set up a committee to examine whether further powers can be conferred on local bodies. This committee is examining the question of the creation of intermediary bodies to serve as link with Gram Panchayats and also to consider whether any modification in the present constitution of the District Boards is desirable. The Government have also given final shape to the future set-up of local bodies in the State.

RAJASTHAN

Panchayat movement in Rajasthan has now become a pivot round which all development activities of the rural areas revolve. The coming of the Rajasthan Panchayat Act, 1953, enforced from 1. 1. 1954, marks a new era in the village administration of this State of erstwhile feudal order giving the State a unified Act for the first time in her history. 12 new Panchayats were constituted during the period under review, thereby raising the number to 2,967, covering 19,946 villages.

With a view to impart education to Panchas and Sarpanchas and also to provide them opportunities for mutual consultations on problems of common interest and functioning of Panchayat administration under the new Act, Conference-Cum-Training Camps were held at Tonk, Raisinghnagar, Sumerpur, Hindaun, Phulia, Rajamand, Baran, Barna, Dungarpur, Garampura, Siwana, Dabra and Kanwas in which 300 Panchas and Sarpanchas participated. At these Conference-Cum-Training Camps, training was given in the methodology of implementing schemes of Drinking Water Supply in the Rural areas. An amount for 478 wells was provided in the Five-Year Plan. Work on 410 wells was taken in hand during the period under review and objectives of the Community Project work were reviewed in detail.

The Panchayats in Rajasthan exhibited a keen interest in furthering the constructive activities in their spheres of operations. Marked progress was made in matters of lighting arrangement, repairs of roads and

village routes, supply of medicines to the rural public, disinfection of drinking water at the sources of supply, tree plantation, holding of fairs and management of libraries. The philosophy of *Shramdan* has taken roots in the village people and this enabled them in carrying out successfully various useful works, e.g., construction of roads and digging of wells and tanks.

According to this Scheme Government aid is provided. The drinking water supply scheme for rural areas was entirely entrusted to the Panchayats with a provision that in cash or kind their contribution would be 33% for every hundred rupees of Grant-in-Aid. The entire scheme that has already been sanctioned by the Government of India is for rupees one crore of Grant-in-aid. During the period under review the works already sanctioned in instalments have been taken up.

In the field of education, a scheme of starting single teacher primary schools by the Panchayats was sponsored in 1952-53, 88 single teacher primary schools, with an estimated expenditure of Rs. 8,71,200, the village Panchayat contribution being 33% and Government contribution 66% were started during the period under review.

SAURASHTRA

The number of Gram Panchayats in Saurashtra was 1,413 at the end of July, 1953, including Class B Panchayats. 231 new Panchayats were established and notified during the period from August, 1953 to March, 1954. 48 Panchayats have been developed and promoted to Class B Panchayats and one Panchayat promoted to class A Panchayat. Thus there are :

| | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|----|-------|
| Class A Panchayats | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| Class B Panchayats | .. | .. | .. | 48 |
| Class C Panchayats | .. | .. | .. | 1,595 |
| | | | | <hr/> |
| Total | .. | .. | .. | 1,644 |
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From April, 1954 to August 9, 1954, we anticipate 225 new Panchayats.

Out of 4,356 villages in Saurashtra these Panchayats serve nearly 1,720 villages i.e., 39.5% of non-municipal villages here. Panchayats serve 59.4% of the total non-municipal area. The Panchayat villages pay a land revenue of Rs. 1,31,21,411.

In the financial year 1953-54, these Panchayats were given Grants-in-aid amounting to Rs. 9,91,497 while they raised about a lac of rupees from taxes and fees and voluntary contributions in cash and labour.

These Panchayats have undertaken the functions of road construction and repairs, sinking; deepening and construction of wells for drinking water; construction and filling of cattle troughs; sanitation and conservancy; medical relief; street-lighting; night-schools and adult classes, village schools, libraries and reading rooms; construction; Choras, public latrines; maintenance of castration of useless bulls; arrangement for the storage of good seeds; crop protection, encouraging preparation of compost manure; village protection; removal of untouchability. This year 221 Panchayats had declared open their village wells for Harijans.

During this year, 47 Panchayats have been vested with the powers of revenue collection and 3 Panchayats have been promoted to Class A. Panchayats are also entrusted with certain powers in minor judicial matters but many of them have formally taken up their functions. They use their influence to compose and compound the differences between the

UTTAR PRADESH

The 36,000 Gaon Panchayats, the spear-head of the rural development movement in U. P., did constructive work of the value of well over Rs. 2.20 crores during the financial year 1953-54. This brought the total money value of Panchayats' accomplishment in the field of development since their inception in 1949 to Rs. 9.53 crores. A rough estimate put the value of free contribution of manual labour offered by the village folks at Rs. 5.83 crores. Over Rs. 3.70 crores were spent directly by Panchayats out of their own funds.

The story of Panchayats in U. P., is a story of a people trying to get out of the malaise into which they had drifted, thanks to long years of political subjugation. Last year's work makes it a tale of figures—figures which give a somewhat dull reading but speak volumes for the success of the experiment, as it was initially in decentralization of power in villages. The statistics of hundreds of projects which the Panchayats completed during the last few years show that the system has come to stay and has opened a new road of progress in the countryside.

During 1953-54, the Panchayats were able to construct roads of the length of 5,900 miles, 848 Gandhi Chabutras, 3,430 drinking water wells, and over 10,000 irrigation channels. In addition, they dug drains of the length of 105 miles, repaired old roads of the length of 11,600 miles, opened 1,052 libraries, 1,238 schools and 9,925 Akharas, installed 775 radio sets and over 16,000 street lamps, purchased 5,678 medicine chests and planted 16.43 lakh trees.

This and other work done by the Panchayats, year after year, has led to a gradual but sure improvement in living conditions in villages. The Panchayat Adalats or Village Courts disposed of over 14 lakh cases

up to March 31 last. It is difficult to work out the expenditure villagers would have incurred if in the absence of Panchayati Adalats, all these cases had, as in the past, gone to courts in cities.

The term of office of the members of Gaon Panchayats and Presidents and Vice-Presidents of Gaon Sabhas and Panchas and Sarpanchas of Panchayati Adalats was extended by one year as Government decided to hold general elections to the Panchayats bodies till the amendments to the Panchayat Raj Act had been placed on the Statute Book.

An appeal was made to all the 36,000 Gaon Sabhas to make their best contribution towards the implementation of the Five-Year Plan. They were also asked to make efforts to bring at least one acre of land under orchards or forests in every village. A plan for rural housing was sent by the Government to the Panchayats with the suggestion that, to begin with, one house might be constructed in every Panchayati Adalat circle in accordance with the improved pattern suggested in the plan. During the last Diwali celebrations an intensive cleanliness drive was undertaken by Panchayats all over the State. Donations to Panchayats were also received from a large number of people. In one village alone, in Bulandshahr District, the Pradhan of a Gaon Sabha donated Rs. 2,000 to the Panchayat for the construction of a Panchayatghar. His example was emulated by about a dozen others and consequently, over Rs. 3,300 were received by the Panchayats within few days. In another village a villager gave Rs. 500 to the Gaon Panchayat as his contribution towards the construction of a school. A villager in Tehri-Garhwal donated a house for accommodating a girls' school. Reports of such instances are increasingly being received.

During the year Government placed a sum of Rs. 600 at the disposal of every District Magistrate for the award of prizes to Gaon Sabhas which led others in doing constructive work in their respective districts. An important conference attended by about 10,000 Panchas, Sarpanchas, Mukhias, Pradhans, school teachers and other prominent persons from rural areas was held at Bareilly under the auspices of the District Planning Committee. The aim of the conference was to help educate the village societies, etc. To attend this conference hundreds of villagers reached Bareilly on foot from their respective homes.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

The following recommendations made by the Committee on Local Bodies of the Local Self-Government Ministers' Conference at Simla in June last on the question of the place of Local Bodies in the next five years are at present under the consideration of Central Government.

The Committee observed that the first scheme which should receive prior attention is improvement and provision of water supply in urban

areas. The Committee was of the view that for purposes of such schemes, a distinction should be drawn between towns having a population of 25,000 and above and those with population below 25,000. Generally speaking, in towns having a population of more than 25,000, water supply schemes should be financed on the basis of loans to be advanced by Governments—both at the Centre and in the States. There may, however, be towns even in this category in States where the water supply position is difficult and in such cases subsidy may be necessary. In the case of towns whose population is below 25,000, the Committee felt that municipal schemes should be subsidised to the extent of 50 per cent by the Centre and the remaining 50 per cent should be made half and half by State subsidies and local resources of the municipalities concerned.

Coming to the question of drainage in Municipal areas which is necessarily complementary to water supply schemes, the Committee was of the definite opinion that no distinction as to the population of towns should be made in connection with drainage schemes. These schemes should be subsidised uniformly in all towns on the basis of 50 per cent grant-in-aid from the Centre and 25 per cent grant-in-aid from the States —the remaining 25 per cent to be found by the local bodies themselves.

The Committee advocated that the schemes for the supply of electric power to the smaller towns including, possibly, the rural belt around them with an industrial potential, should be financed by the Centre on a half loan and half subsidy basis.

The Committee also recommended that the State Government should set up on a State-wide basis an adequate town planning organisation which should be charged with the responsibility of preparing the Master Plan within the target period. The Centre should undertake to provide the services of such personnel, by arranging for suitable training facilities, who may execute the schemes satisfactorily. However, the preparation of Master Plans alone, will not be executed with funds. So the Committee recommended that in the next Five-Year Plan there should be a definite allocation of fund by the Centre on the basis of loans, for the execution of town development plans.

Schemes for slum clearance and housing for lower income groups are the most important phase of better town planning. These schemes should be put on par in the matter of grants by the Centre, so that slum clearance should receive the same financial assistance, on the basis of half loan and half subsidy, which schemes of industrial housing are at present receiving.

In the rural areas, one of the most important needs of the local bodies is in respect of their roads, particularly those maintained by district or sub-district boards. The finances of these local bodies are

inadequate. The Committee felt that in the next Five-Year Plan, definite allocation of funds, which should include a reasonably substantial element of subsidy, should be earmarked for the improvement of such district or sub-district roads.

The problem of finance is a foremost one facing the local bodies. So, definite emphasis must be placed on the resources of units of local self-government.

In the case of Terminal Tax and Ceiling Tax on trades, professions and callings, the Taxation Inquiry Commission will examine with great care the existing unsatisfactory condition of the finances of local bodies, with a view to their improvement, and with particular reference to the questions of terminal tax and the present ceiling on taxes on trades, professions and callings.

The Committee felt that it would be a useful step if all State Governments set up institutions for training and research for the principal executive officers who must be made primarily and directly responsible for the work of implementation and execution of the policy made by the elected members of the local bodies. For improving the standards of administration in local bodies, the Committee was of the opinion of separating as far as possible their purely executive functions from their deliberative or policy-making functions. The Committee also recommended that a central organisation for research in problems of local self-Government should be established by the Central Government.

In the different States, the position is as follows:—

BOMBAY

The three Municipal Corporations for Bombay, Ahmedabad and Poona cities, 216 municipalities and 27 district local boards, not to mention the village panchayats, constitute the State's local self-Government institutions.

Municipal Corporations: The Bombay Corporation's Vaitarna scheme for improving water supply of the city has made considerable progress and a loan of Rs. 2 crores from the Government of India has been secured for financing the scheme. The slum clearance schemes of the Bombay as well as Poona and Ahmedabad Corporations have been forwarded to the Government of India and they will be implemented if substantial aid is obtained. In the meantime, Government amended the Bombay Municipal Corporation Act to facilitate slum clearance.

As the Corporation has taken over administration of the Bombay suburban areas, it is paid (1) a grant-in-aid equal to 50 per cent of the expenditure incurred on dearness allowance for its employees, (2) 75 per cent of the non-agricultural assessment and 15 per cent of the

land revenue, (3) average of the annual grant paid to the former local bodies in these areas on account of hospitals and dispensaries and (4) a fixed grant of Rs. 5½ lakhs on account of expenditure on primary education in the suburban areas.

The Corporation receives 1/3rd of the expenditure incurred on schemes of improvement of water supply, sewage, etc., in the suburbs to the maximum amount of Rs. 90 lakhs. It also receives the maximum amount of Rs. 10 lakhs on account of school buildings that will be constructed during the next ten years.

In addition, the grants of Rs. 10 lakhs are paid to it on account of the Improvement Trust budget while Rs. 25,000 are paid as a grant in compensation for abolition of tolls. A grant amounting to one-half the cost of preparation of the Master Plan for Greater Bombay subject to the maximum of Rs. 3,60,000 is also paid to the Bombay Corporation.

The Poona and Ahmedabad Corporations will receive, during 1953-54, grants equal to 15% of land revenue and 75% of the non-agricultural revenue collected in their respective areas. These grants had been discontinued during the two previous years.

Municipalities: The municipalities continued to receive the grants comprising the percentages of the land and non-agricultural revenue specified above and a provision of Rs. 52 lakhs has been made in the Budget on that account. A provision of Rs. 7 lakhs has been made for grants to municipalities for construction and maintenance of municipal roads. A total provision of Rs. 35,000 also exists for developing a hill station at Panhalla in Kolhapur district and a municipality for Panhalla has already been established.

The fire-fighting personnel of mofussil municipalities is to be trained at the headquarters of the Bombay Fire Brigade and Government is spending Rs. 37,000 on the scheme of establishing a fire-fighting service in the districts which had not existed before.

Legislation was passed to extend the term of municipalities from three to four years and the aggregate term has been increased from four to five years. Certain important provisions of the Representation of People Act for municipal elections have also been incorporated.

District Local Boards: The district local board's finances have been strengthened with payments of the grant of 15% of land revenue (Rs. 58,00,000), 2½rd of the salary of Chief Officer or Engineer (Rs. 94,880), 2% of the gross forest revenue (Rs. 5,43,800) and 50% of expenditure incurred on payment of dearness allowance to the staff of the boards (Rs. 10,15,820) during 1954-55. They are also being given grants of Rs. 16 lakhs for local public works and Rs. 13 lakhs for repairs to roads during 1954-55.

COORG

At present there is one District Board, 2 Municipalities, 7 Notified Areas and 3 Village Panchayats in this State. The District Board will be abolished shortly. All the school and the medical establishment which were under the District Board have since been taken over by the Government. The two Municipalities are small townships; one having a population of over 10,000 and the other about 6,000. The Notified Areas are still smaller townships. No reforms or developments have been made in the administration of Local Bodies during the year.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

The Local Bodies were given about Rs. 55,000 (as 50% grant-in-aid) for their development schemes during the year 1953-54 in Himachal Pradesh.

MADHYA BHARAT

Before the formation of Madhya Bharat, the administration of Municipal committees was carried out under different laws prevalent in the converging States. From January 26, 1954, Madhya Bharat Municipalities Act, passed by the State Legislature, has been enforced in the State and now the Municipal Committees throughout the State are being administered by a uniform law. Under this law, the Municipalities of the State have been classified into three categories and here will be no nominated member on a Municipal Board which will be elected on the basis of adult franchise.

Municipal Committees are not self-sufficient financially and the Government gives financial aid to them for carrying out improvement of roads, drainages, electric power plants and waterworks.

MYSORE

The provision of adequate water-supply both in the towns and the villages is a necessity. A scheme has been drawn up for giving loans to the Town Municipalities for improvement of water supply. In pursuance of Government's desire to improve water supply throughout the State, schemes costing Rs. 2½ crores have already been sanctioned in respect of 80 towns in the State and are under various stages of execution.

PEPSU

With a view to improving the administration of Municipalities, the Punjab Municipal (Executive Officers) Act, 2,003, was extended to eight Municipal Committees in PEPSU.

Government is granting subsidies for development works varying from 25% to 50% of estimated cost. During the year 1953-54, schemes for roads and drainage works amounting to Rs. 18,45,000 have been sanctioned and subsidies amounting to Rs. 2,94,000 were granted by Government to various Local Bodies.

There are 37 small Town Committees. In order to remove the anomalies which exist in the administration of Municipalities and Small

Town Committees under the Punjab Municipal Act and the Patiala Small Towns Act, a new Bill has been prepared on the lines of the Punjab Small Towns Act. In the proposed Bill the nominated element has been done away with. Small Town Committees are especially being encouraged to start reading rooms and Government grant a special subsidy of Rs 200 per annum to each Committee which spends an equal amount from its own funds.

Elections, which were due, were held in five Municipalities in the year 1953-54.

RAJASTHAN

The period under review saw a further progress in the activities of Municipal Boards in this State. Elections were held in 19 Municipal Boards and 2 Municipal Boards were newly constituted.

The position with regard to taxation by Local Bodies considerably improved and the tax revenue indicated more than 100% increase from the figures of the year 1948-49. The incidence of tax revenue went up from -13/- to Rs. 24/9 per capita. This indicated that the municipal boards in the State endeavoured to improve their financial position in most of the cases.

During the year under report, water supply schemes of the following towns have been approved and loans sanctioned: Alwar, Udaipur, Ganganagar, Bharatpur and Bhadra.

The water supply schemes of Alwar and Ganganagar are estimated to cost more than Rs. 10 lakhs and of Udaipur about Rs. 33 lakhs.

A sum of Rs. 6 lakhs was spent on the improvement of municipal roads during the current year.

The Rajasthan Town Municipalities (Amendment) Bill which sought to amend provisions of the Rajasthan Town Municipalities Act so as to bring the city municipalities which were being governed by their old enactments, was before the Select Committee of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly. The Select Committee, after long deliberations, have decided to introduce a more comprehensive bill. After this bill is enacted, all municipalities in Rajasthan will come within the purview of a single Act.

Rules in respect of integration of Municipal Services are being framed and would shortly come into force.

SAURASHTRA

There are three Borough Municipalities, 7 City Municipalities and 70 District Municipalities. Besides, there are State run Municipalities. The Municipalities are working in the best interests of the people in matters of health, sanitation and water supply. Those Municipalities which have not got sufficient funds to cater to the primary needs of the people, the Government is considering a scheme for water supply and drainage for such towns and cities.

During the course of the year, there was no epidemic in any of the

Municipal areas in the State and the Municipalities continued to look after the health and sanitation of the people. Several Municipalities have launched a drive to prevent spread of Malaria. The Municipalities in the coastal areas are also trying their utmost to prevent the spread of Filaria within their limits.

UTTAR PRADESH

The general elections to Municipal Boards and Town and Notified Area Committees were held peacefully during the year.

Several new water supply projects were undertaken by the Local Self-Government Engineering Department during the year. The construction of 17 new water-works was in hand and two existing water-works in Ramnagar and Rampur were being reorganised. It was expected that all the new water works would start functioning by 1957-58 when the total number of water works in the State would reach 59, as against 26 constructed during the 150 years of alien rule. To help the Municipal Boards in the construction of these water-works, the State Government gave them substantial aid.

Government advised all Local Bodies to take necessary steps to encourage establishment of non-official committees in different mohallas of the towns with a view to seeing that the towns were kept neat and clean. They also advised them to take measures against the monkey menace in the urban areas. In view of the precarious financial position of the hill district boards, special non-recurring grants totalling Rs. 5 lakhs were sanctioned to them. During the financial year 1954-55, the State Government sanctioned grants totalling Rs. 65 lakhs to the District Boards as compensation on account of loss of income to them from local rates and cesses for the Rabi Kist of 1361 Fasli following the abolition of Zamindari system.

Early during the year Government had to ask Local Bodies to discontinue maintaining their higher educational institutions after June, 1954 and to divert the money, thus saved, on the discharge of other functions, such as the running of primary schools. Later on, however, on receipt of reports that none of the Local Bodies concerned was able to arrange for alternate sources of income to run the higher educational institutions, as suggested by Government, the whole position had to be reviewed in the interest of education. Though Government still considered that there was no justification for Local Bodies to go out of their way to incur expenditure on higher education, particularly when they were not able, in several cases, to discharge even some of their primary functions adequately, Government permitted them to continue to run and maintain the institutions concerned. Government, however, directed that the Local Bodies should not incur more expenditure on these institutions than was incurred in 1952-53. Similarly, Local Bodies were allowed to continue to give grants to institutions which they were aiding.

The Town and Village Planning Department finalised a large number of schemes for the construction of houses, shops, markets, etc. These schemes related to the rehabilitation of displaced persons, low-cost housing, construction of houses for co-operative societies, labour, sweepers, etc. A number of lay-out plans were also prepared. The monthly average of schemes prepared by the Department was on the increase. In 1949, not more than 1.5 schemes were prepared per month. During 1953 the average stood at 32.66.

WEST BENGAL

There are in all 81 Municipalities, covering nearly a population of 30 lakhs in West Bengal.

The Corporation of Calcutta is the most important local body in the State having an area of 37.35 sq. miles and a population of 26,98,494 within its jurisdiction. The total revenue receipts and revenue expenditure of the Corporation were Rs. 5,69,62,500 and Rs. 6,25,99,500 respectively, according to the revised estimates for 1953-54.

The Calcutta Improvement Trust set-up in 1911 for the improvement and expansion of Calcutta has on hand schemes for general improvement of the town, as also certain schemes for the rehousing of people of lower income groups displaced as a result of its operations.

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CHAPTER XV

ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL REFORMS

Administrative Reforms—After the attainment of freedom, the administration in India has grown into a huge machinery. Numerous problems arising out of the partition and the welfare activities of the State following the transfer of power are responsible for such a growth. While basically the organisational set-up is still the same as was inherited from foreign rulers, it can well be asserted that the old-fashioned law and order administration is now giving place progressively to a real healthy and welfare State. As the pace of progress has been somewhat slow, a demand has been growing in the country for a complete overhaul of the machinery so as to secure a greater efficiency, a quicker disposal of business and less of red tape and waste and corruption. Shri A. D. Gorewala, who submitted his report on reorganisation in 1951, was the first to point out the need for such reforms. Then followed the report of Sri Gopalaswamy Ayyangar who also suggested radical changes. Even our Prime Minister while inaugurating the Conference of State Ministers of Agriculture in September, 1953, remarked emphatically that our officials approaches problems of the common man with "a coat and necktie and collar mind." He further observed feelingly while addressing another meeting in October, 1953, that New Delhi was an "Administrative Jungle"—"a jungle of able administrators no doubt, but it was nevertheless a jungle." Talking to the Directors of the Railway Board and the General Managers of the Railways in November, 1953, he stressed the need for administrators "remaining mentally wide-awake and keeping themselves abreast of political and scientific advancement in the present day world." He asked the Officers to cultivate "dynamic outlook" in order to achieve speedy results. Laying the foundation stone of the Punjab Secretariat at Chandigarh, he stressed the urgent need for "changing the method of work in the Government Secretariat." "The old ruts must be given a good-bye and for always and those in the Services must realise that they have to work with a new spirit in accordance with the needs and circumstances which were born out of the establishment of a democratic form of Government."

The Planning Commission also drew the attention of the Government of India to the desirability of achieving "integrity, efficiency, economy and public co-operation" in public administration with a view to attaining the aims of a Welfare State. The Agra resolution of the A.-I.C.C. also urged upon Government the need to reform the administrative machinery for meeting the urgent requirements of a democratic society.

Recently Shri Appleby of the Ford Foundation who made a survey of Public Administration in India at the request of our Prime Minister, pointed out (while classifying the Government of India among the dozen or so most advanced Governments of the world) a number of defects in the working of the administrative system in the country. He mentioned how in the scheme of administrative hierarchy there was too much "diffusion of responsibility." Referring to the system of 'Seniority', he remarked that Administration in India had 'too much feudalistic heritage' and "too little human-relations orientation." The personnel was arranged self-consciously in "too firm classes" and too firm and too many special "services". There was, in consequence, too little sense of one public service, and too much jealousy." The administrative procedure required "vigorous overhauling": early attention should be paid to the "filing system and the related business of work done through the hierarchial movement of paper." He also mentioned that the Rules of Business, Secretariat Instructions and Office Manuals seemed to be generally "too diactic and confining, too detailed and unimaginative." They have an "inevitable tendency" to encourage that literal-mindedness which damps the spirit, imagination and judgment which are important to good administration."

In its 9th report, the Estimates Committee of the Lok Sabha also recommended certain desirable changes in official procedure in respect of financial control as well as in the selection of personnel and service conditions.

In essence, all these criticisms pointed to the need for improvement in the rules, regulations, procedure for disposal of papers in the Secretariat, methods of recruitment of personnel and promotions, efficiency and speed, stricter control over Public Exchequer, machinery for instituting inquiry into the conduct of high officials, etc.

Government have not, however, been slow to respond to such demands. They have taken steps to reorganise and reorient the machinery. Among the important decisions taken during the year under review were: the establishment of an Organisation and Methods Division and Institute of Public Administration. The Organisation and Methods Division has already started its activities. As regards the Institute of Public Administration, enrolment of members is proceeding apace. A Special Organisation Unit is also making an objective review of the offices of the Government of India with a view to organising their work and staff consistent with efficiency.

As regards services and recruitment, the transfer of power brought with it the problem of reinforcement of the All-India Services. The exit of European and Muslim Officers following the partition made the man-power position in the country very precarious. The problem was to reconstruct the Services on a permanent basis. The scheme for special

recruitment known as the Emergency Recruitment Scheme was accordingly finalised and implemented. As a result, gaps created in the All-India Services have been filled up and now recruitment is made on a regular basis annually by means of competitive examination-cum-*viva voce* tests. Rules and regulations to deal with conditions of service of members of All-India Services are now being framed. They are based on the latest conception of the role of Public Services in a democratic State. The position now is that members of the All-India Services not only man the highest administrative posts in the country, but also play a notable part in strengthening the sense of All-India consciousness and unity.

Rules of business are also being revised to meet the present day requirements. A special organisation is also functioning to detect and prevent corruption among officials. Thus, every possible measure is being taken to effect improvements.

Outlining the steps to improve the administrative system, our Prime Minister in his statement made in May, 1954, in the Council of State observed: "During the last three years, the Government have given much thought and consideration to the problem of improving administrative procedures. Ever since Independence, the activities of the various Departments of Government had increased greatly and many new Departments had been opened and new types of activity undertaken. Several entirely new Ministries had come into existence, such as the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of States and the Ministry of Rehabilitation. The work of other Ministries had also increased greatly. Vast schemes and projects were undertaken and new industries, entirely under State control were started. Thus Government, both at the Centre and in the States was becoming more and more involved in social and industrial undertakings. The administrative set-up was progressively adapted to meet the requirements of this new situation, and, on the whole, this was done with some success. But difficulties often arose and the rules under which the administration functioned had been framed long before Independence when these new activities were not envisaged."

"The Constitution of the Planning Commission and the emergence of the Five-Year Plan involved further a new approach to many of our problems in addition to adding to the duties and responsibilities of both the Central and State Governments. Questions arose as to how far the old Civil Service Regulations, Fundamental Rules, Supplementary Rules, etc., fitted in with the existing conditions and the democratic set-up of the country as well as the new problems which Government have to face. A number of enquiries were made into different aspects of these problems. At the request of the Cabinet, Shri N. Gopalaswamy Ayyangar had considered various administrative problems and presented a report. Mr. Appleby who had been invited to advise us on administrative matters presented a report last year."

"These reports were examined carefully by the Cabinet and a number of recommendations made were adopted. As a result of this consideration, it was decided to set up an Organisation and Methods Division in the Cabinet Secretariat and to establish an Institute of Public Administration. This has been done."

The Prime Minister further observed, "The Organisation and Methods Division have initiated a combined operation to improve the speed and quality of work done in the Secretariat. A selected Deputy Secretary has been appointed as the O. and M. Officer in each Ministry and each Department and in every branch of expenditure finance. These Officers have started detailed inspections and case studies to see how far the prescribed methods and procedures are, in fact, being followed and how they can be improved to secure greater efficiency. The work of the O. and M. Officers is supervised and co-ordinated by the Director of the O. and M. Division, who also brings them together periodically for exchanges of ideas and experience. The regular inspection and review of the speed and quality of work will also facilitate the proper training and development of personnel at all levels and enable good work to be recognised and rewarded and bad work punished."

Judicial Reforms : There is a widespread feeling that the administration of Justice in this country is costly and complicated. At its Agra Session, the All-India Congress Committee gave expression to this feeling in a resolution by describing the administration of Justice as expensive, dilatory and cumbersome. As a result, a Bill has been prepared by the Government of India to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1898 and has been published in the Gazette of India to elicit public opinion. The specific objects and reasons underlying the Bill are as follows :—

The Code of Criminal Procedure was enacted in 1898 and though from time to time slight changes have been made in it, it has remained practically unaltered during the last 55 years. The aim of a sound Criminal Procedure is two-fold : (a) to provide adequate facilities to every accused person for defending himself in a proper manner, and (b) at the same time, to ensure speedy disposal of all criminal judicial business, so that innocent persons should not suffer from protracted proceedings and the real offenders should be punished as early as possible after proper trial. Experience has now shown that the present Criminal Procedure Code does not encourage speedy disposal and that it leaves many loopholes to guilty persons to postpone the evil day as much as possible. This is a very undesirable state of affairs and there is a growing public demand for simplification of procedure, so that the proceedings may be brought to a speedy end. The Bill is designed to meet that demand,

(2) The Code deals with various offences in terms of their gravity. Offences of a petty nature can be tried by Magistrates of lower grades either by way of a summary trial or by a process known as the Summons Procedure. Offences of a more serious nature are triable either by Magistrates of 1st Class by what is known as the Warrant Procedure or by Sessions Judges. The procedure in this latter class of cases is fairly complicated and leads to great delays. The procedure in warrant cases involves innumerable adjournments and allows the accused person, if he so desires, to prolong the proceedings almost indefinitely. The trial in the Court of Sessions is preceded by an inquiry before a Magistrate. This inquiry is popularly known as Commitment Proceedings. The object underlying these Commitment Proceedings was to ensure that innocent persons should not be harassed by a Sessions trial and only those against whom there was a *prima facie* case should be committed for such trial. Experience, however, has shown that Magistrates commonly commit practically all the persons brought before them by the police after careful investigation. The proportion of persons discharged at this stage does not exceed 2 per cent or thereabouts. These Commitment Proceedings, however, often prove extremely lengthy, involve many adjournments and cause not only the prosecution, but the accused as well, trouble and heavy expense. Even after the commitment, the Sessions trial may not commence for some months, and the result is that persons guilty of extremely grave offences have to remain in suspense often for more than a year or so. In cases involving death penalty, the situation is still worse because under the law, a death sentence has to be confirmed by the High Court and this confirmation often takes anything from six months to a year, if not more. The Bill abolishes Commitment Proceedings in cognizable cases and the accused is to be put up by a Magistrate directly for trial before a Sessions Judge. To enable the accused to know the case that he has to meet, the Bill provides that he should, in good time, be supplied with copies of the statement recorded in police diaries during investigation, of statements before a Magistrate under section 164, as well as copies of the First Information Report and all other material documentary or other evidence on which the prosecution proposes to rely. Commitment Proceedings are, however, being retained in cases initiated by private complainants. That is necessary because in such cases, safeguards which become available in cognizable cases through police investigation are non-existent.

(3) The Bill is intended to simplify procedure to the utmost extent possible, and to avoid all possible delays and further to speed up trials regarding less serious offences. One of the results of this indefinite duration of criminal proceedings is the prolonged detention in jails of under-trial prisoners. This is very unsatisfactory. Every citizen is entitled to claim that he should be tried quickly or released on bail.

Furthermore, delay in bringing the offender to trial leads to fading of memories and also to very reprehensible attempts on the part of guilty persons to suborn witnesses and thus defeat the ends of justice.

(4) The Bill provides for extension of the Summons Procedure for trial of offences of a less serious nature and also enlarges the powers of Magistrates to impose higher sentences of fine.

(5) To make the people feel that the courts are their courts, and that they should co-operate fully with the administration of justice, Sessions Judges are now being authorised, whenever they think fit and expedient, to hold trials at any place within their jurisdiction. The intention is that if it can be managed, a Sessions trial should be held as near the place of occurrence as possible, thereby causing the minimum inconvenience to the witnesses. The same rule would apply to magisterial trials. To stop the prevailing evil of perjury and to make the witnesses realise that it is a very anti-social act on the part of anyone to mislead a court of justice by deliberately giving false evidence, the courts are being authorised to try a witness summarily for the offence of perjury and call upon him to show cause why he should not be held guilty of this serious offence.

The procedure in warrant cases is being simplified so that the prosecution witness should not normally be cross-examined more than once, nor be liable to be called upon a second time unless the Magistrate thinks that there is real necessity for his further cross-examination. Adjournments are not to be allowed except for an unavoidable cause, and so far as possible no adjournment is to be allowed without the examination of the witnesses then present in court. One of the frequent causes of repeated adjournments is the non-attendance of witnesses. There is a general impression that non-compliance with a summons of the court is not a serious matter, and unless a warrant is issued for any particular witness, he runs no peril. This false impression is sought to be removed by empowering the court in suitable cases to punish people who disobey court summons without just cause.

(6) All criminal cases mostly turn on facts and in every criminal case, there is a right of appeal provided either to the High Court or to the Sessions Judge. The time of the High Court is often wasted by the accused persons applying in revision on totally insufficient grounds. This causes waste of judicial time in the High Court and enormous trouble and needless expense to the petitioners themselves who are often poor and are further impoverished as a result of such revisions. In order to put the matter beyond doubt, section 435 is being suitably amended, restricting revisions purely to points of law.

(7) At present, every trial by a Court of Session must be either by jury or with the aid of assessors. The system of assessors has been condemned as no longer of any utility. It is, therefore, proposed that

it should be abolished. So far as trial by jury is concerned, opinion is divergent. No change has, therefore, been made in the existing provision under which it is open to any State Government to extend the jury system wherever it likes, to the whole or any part of the State, and for all or any specified class of offences. It has, however, been provided that in any case where the High Court is satisfied that owing to the volume and the complexity of evidence the duration of trial is likely to exceed a week or the case involves considerations of highly technical evidence, it may order that the trial by jury may be dispensed with. Wherever the system of trial by jury exists or is brought into force, in order to minimise the possibility of a *de novo* trial by reason of the illness or death of any juror, the number of jurymen has been increased and it is provided that the absence of one or two of them shall not interfere with the progress of the trial.

(8) The Code already empowers courts to award compensation to the accused for the abuse of the process of the Court by making false and frivolous complaints. The amount of compensation at present provided has been considered very low and is being increased.

The amount that a Magistrate may award as maintenance to a deserted wife has been increased.

(9) Various sections, particularly section 342, empower Magistrates and Sessions Judges to put questions to the accused at any stage of an inquiry or a trial, but this examination is not on oath, and is in the nature of things, sometimes very incomplete. These powers are now being made more general, and a Magistrate or a Judge is now being empowered to examine the accused of his own accord or at the suggestion of the prosecution or the defence on any point that he thinks fit, keeping, of course, in view of the provisions of Article 20(3) of the Constitution that, no accused shall be compelled to give evidence against himself. The accused is, however, being given liberty to offer himself as a witness on his own behalf if he so desires. It has been made clear that the failure of the accused to do so shall not be adversely commented upon by the prosecution.

(10) Often grossly improper, unfounded and defamatory allegations and charges are made against public servants in regard to their actions in the discharge of their official duties. It is desirable, in the public interest, that inquiries should be made into such charges. Therefore, such cases are being made cognizable so that they may be brought before a court by the police after proper investigation. Such cases are being made triable exclusively by a Court of Session. Offences under sections 162-164 of the Indian Penal Code (which deal with taking illegal gratification to influence or to exercise personal influence with a public servant or the abetment of both of these offences) have been made

cognizable and Schedule II to the Code of Criminal Procedure suitably amended.

(11) In cases of disputes relating to immovable properties, the existing provisions require a Magistrate to adjudicate upon the question as to which particular party was in possession of the properties. This results sometimes in protracted proceedings involving a good deal of public time and interference with other normal magisterial duties. Section 145 is, therefore, being suitably amended, empowering Magistrates to attach the property, to appoint receivers, if necessary and to direct the parties to resort to the civil court for the determination of their rights, including the question of possession over the property concerned. It has, however, been provided that the parties affected thereby should be given adequate opportunity of being heard in the matter either before or after the attachment to enable the Magistrate, where necessary, to withdraw his order of attachment and restore possession to the party rightfully entitled to it. The order is to be for a specific period at the end of which the matter will be reconsidered by the Magistrate if by that time no civil court (to which the parties might have resorted) has acquired jurisdiction over the matter.

(12) General opinion has been expressed that the inadequacy of Magistrates is one of the primary causes for delays, in the disposal of criminal judicial business in courts. In many States, the number of stipendiary Magistrate is small and their number is supplemented by appointment of a large number of honorary Magistrates. The existing provisions (Section 14) authorise such appointment but that section contains no provision regarding the qualification of persons who might be appointed as honorary Magistrates. An amendment is now being made to ensure that such people should either be retired judicial officers or persons suitably qualified in accordance with the rule made by the State Government in this behalf.

(13) It is proposed that an under-trial prisoner should normally be released on bail if his trial cannot be concluded within six weeks of his being brought before the Magistrate unless the Magistrate thinks his continued detention expedient for the ends of justice. In order to allow a convict opportunity for immediately applying for bail pending an appeal, the Magistrate is directed to supply him as soon as may be possible with a statement showing the nature of the finding and the length of the sentence. Section 401 gives powers to State Government to remit or suspend sentences. In order to prevent very reprehensible endeavours on the part of convicted prisoners to avoid going to jail, and any disobedience to the order of the court, it has now been made clear that no application under Section 401 will be entertained from any person, sentenced to imprisonment, unless it is made after surrender and through the jail authorities.

Section 406 specifies that any person who has been ordered to give security for keeping the peace or for good behaviour, may appeal from such order to the Court of Session or High Court. The proviso to this section, however, provides that the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, direct that in any district specified appeals from such orders may lie to the District Magistrate and not to the Court of Sessions. It is proposed to omit the proviso to Section 406.

"Under Section 407 appeals against convictions by Magistrates of the 2nd and 3rd class lie to the District Magistrate who may direct that" "any appeal or class of appeals shall be heard by a 1st class magistrate" empowered by the State Government to hear such appeals. As a step towards effecting separation of the Judiciary from the Executive, it is proposed to suitably amend Section 407 providing that such appeals shall lie to the Court of Session.

In Summons cases filed on complaint Magistrates have been empowered to dispense with the attendance of the complaint and to proceed with the case if they consider it expedient to do so. Courts have also been empowered, where the accused is properly represented by a pleader, to proceed with the trial in the absence of the accused.

Provision has been made that misjoinder of charges shall not vitiate a trial unless prejudice is shown to have been caused to the accused.

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This is an appendix to the report of the Congress Agrarian Reforms Committee and contains a note on the balanced cultivation by Shri J. C. Kumarappa and statistical calculation of self-sufficiency on balanced diet by Shri R. K. Nigam. The two notes are sure to arouse the interest of research scholars.

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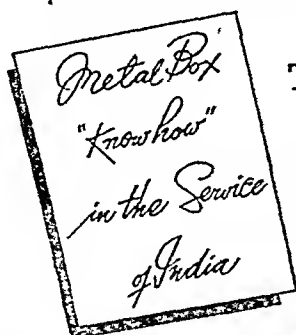
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CHAPTER XVI

WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

Removal of untouchability was one of the foremost missions of life of the Father of the Nation. He identified himself completely with the lowliest and the down-trodden and his heart bled for them. Following his teachings, Congress has been making herculean efforts from 1921 onward for uprooting this evil. In the Constitution, provisions have been made for abolishing untouchability and forbidding its observance in any form. With the advent of Congress Ministries at the Centre and in the States, a number of measures safeguarding the interests of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been adopted, e.g. preferential treatment in the matter of allotment of land in the States, reservation of specified percentage of posts in the services, grant of scholarships. The Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who has been appointed as a special officer under the provisions of the Constitution, has mentioned in his third report, which came out only recently, that the cry of untouchability alleged to be based on Hindu Scriptures is hushed today and the demon has been laid low not to rise again, at least in so far as educated sections of the society are concerned. This may be regarded as a great achievement, keeping in view centuries-old and deep-rooted prejudices of the people of this country.

The Commissioner has, however, added that untouchability in one form or the other still exists, particularly in villages where superstition has been a conviction and tradition a deep-rooted custom. To put a stop to all such practices, Government propose to introduce in the very near future a comprehensive and uniform legislation penalising untouchability throughout India. After it has been placed on the Statute Book, Scheduled Castes will themselves have to play a major role by asserting their guaranteed rights under the Constitution.

To look after the interests of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Commissioner has now 5 (Regional) Assistant Commissioners covering the following States :

- (i) Assam, West Bengal, Manipur, Tripura. (ii) Bihar and Orissa.
- (iii) Bombay, Rajasthan and Ajmer. (iv) Madhya Pradesh, Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh and Bhopal. (v) Southern Region.

For the execution of schemes drawn up for welfare of backward classes, including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and for the development of Scheduled areas, a total provision of Rs. 40.87 crores

have been made in the First Five-Year Plan. Grants have also been given to States for the removal of untouchability and for the welfare of ex-criminal tribes. For the year under report a sum of Rs. one crore has been budgetted for. The following are the amounts earmarked for the States as grants-in-Aid from the Central Government :

| | 1951-52 | 1952-53 | 1953-54 |
|--------------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|
| Parts A & B States | 90,86,501 | 1,28,61,743 | 1,91,42,085 |
| Part C States | | 24.00 (lakhs) | 30.00 (lakhs) |

Financial assistance has also been given to non-official organisations of all-India character to enable them to supplement the efforts of the Government for the advancement of backward classes and removal of untouchability.

State Governments are equally alive to the need for ending social injustices within the shortest possible time and the steps which they are taking in this behalf will be clear from the paragraphs that follow :

AJMER

In Ajmer, a sum of Rs. 6,000 has been given to non-official agencies for propaganda and publicity work regarding removal of untouchability. A sum of Rs. 7,500 has been given for the help of cottage industries, preferably those run on a co-operative basis. Grants will now be given for the purchase of machines and tools which will remain the property of Government for three years. A sum of Rs. 5,000 has been provided for as grant-in-aid to Harijans living in the hill-basti at the Tramway Station at Ajmer for improvement of housing. A sum of Rs. 10,000 has been provided for as grants-in-aid for sinking new wells for agricultural purposes. These grants to the extent of Rs. 250 per well will be given to those Harijans who have sunk new wells by obtaining taccavi. A sum of Rs. 7,000 has also been provided for scholarships for Harijan boys and girls.

ANDHRA

A sum of Rs. 2,41,451 was spent on the grant of 955 scholarships to Hindu Harijans and another sum of Rs. 1,58,855 on the grant of 638 scholarships to Harijan converts during 1953-54. In Addition, a sum of Rs. 1,44,715 for Hindus and Rs. 44,003 for converts was placed at the disposal of Collectors for sanctioning non-residential scholarships in elementary and secondary Schools during 1953-54. Government are also running separate hostels for these communities. The approximate expenditure involved is Rs. 1,20,000 for 1953-54.

Societies for the benefit of artisans among Harijans such as metal workers, mat weavers, hand spinners, cumbli weavers, leather goods manufacturers, basket makers, potters, oil producers, blacksmiths, carpenters, toy-makers, lace-workers etc. are functioning in the State. On the 30th June, 1953, there were as many as 122 cottage industries co-operative societies in Andhra.

The State Government have been placing at the disposal of the Registrar certain amounts for granting subsidies to deserving societies to enable them to meet their establishment and contingent charges and 50% of the cost of implements and tools. Subsidies amounting to Rs. 4,256 were given to co-operative cottage industries societies upto 31-3-54. Government have also provided a sum of Rs. 30,000 in the budget for 1953-54 for sanction of loans for purchase of tools, machinery etc.

ASSAM

Sums of Rs. 328 87 and 80.00 lakhs have been earmarked for 1954-55 and 1955-56 for the amelioration of the conditions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes. The expenditure incurred in 1953 was Rs. 77.00 lakhs.

In addition to the usual sum of Rs. 40 lakhs, which is given annually to Assam Government under Article 275, an extra amount of Rs. 83 lakhs was provided for in 1953-54 for several schemes. The State Govt. also propose to incur expenditure on welfare schemes from their own funds. An expenditure of Rs. 25,000 will be incurred on the award of scholarships to Scheduled Tribe students in the plain districts, Rs. 6,000 on the establishment of adult education centres and Rs. 10,500 on grant to teachers' training schools. A sum of Rs. 50,000 will be utilised on the setting up of a mobile dispensary with propaganda unit. A sum of Rs. 15,000 is proposed to be incurred on the improvement of communications and Rs. 31,152 on the construction of buildings, purchase of stores etc. Under cottage industries scheme, a silk farm is proposed to be set up at an estimated cost of Rs. 25,000. On medical side, it is proposed to incur an expenditure of Rs. 1,50,000 in the areas predominantly inhabited by the Plains tribal people. A sum of Rs. 2 lakhs has been set apart for self-help schemes for the construction of roads and irrigation on canals by villagers and other organisations.

Three seats for students from Autonomous districts and four for those coming from N.E.P. Agency have been reserved in Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh, while 5 seats have been reserved in Assam Agriculture College, Jorhat, for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Co-operative Training Institute of Gohati affords similar facilities to members of Scheduled Tribes and backward communities.

COORG

In Coorg rules regarding the grant of lands have been amended providing for the grant of land for cultivation purposes to the Harijans and landless poor people to the extent of 3 acres each. More than 150 acres of land were granted during the year under review. Assistance was given to 240 people to construct houses by providing free tiles and timber. In order to spread literacy among the Scheduled Castes and Tribes, their children are admitted to all the schools free of fees. Free supply of books and midday meals are also provided. A committee has been constituted to look after the interests of Scheduled Castes, Tribes and other Backward Classes in the State and to advise Government from time to time on ameliorative measures and on the proper utilisation of the various grants made by the Central and State Governments. A programme of house construction, sinking of wells, promotion of cottage industries etc., is under implementation. The total cost of the special welfare schemes is estimated at Rs. 3,46,000 out of which Government of India's grant is Rs. 1,50,000.

DELHI

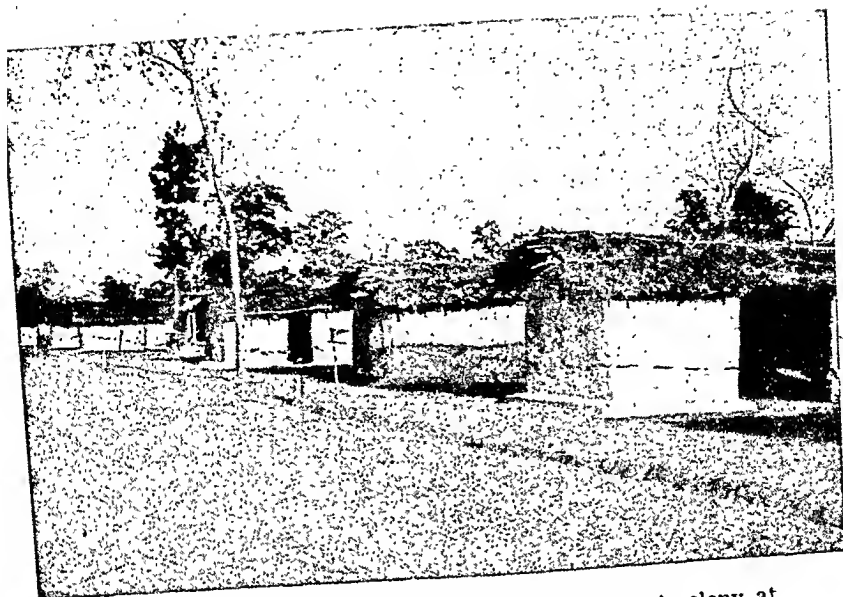
The State Government have decided to employ Harijans and backward classes in Government Departments up to 12½% of posts subject to availability of suitable candidates.

Instruction is imparted free of fees to Harijan students up to the higher secondary standard in the Delhi State. The concession of full freeship involved an expenditure of Rs. 37,000 in 1952-53 and Rs. 40,000 in 1953-54. The number of students benefited by this concession was 8,800 in 1952-53 and 10,250 in 1953-54. Cash grants to the tune of Rs. 83,523 were given in 1952-53. This amount rose to Rs. 92,540 in 1953-54 benefiting 1,972 students in 1952-53 and 2,641 students in 1953-54.

It has been decided to build 100 houses and to construct or repair wells at an estimated cost of over a lakh of rupees to provide good water and residential accommodation to the Harijans in the rural areas of the State. One of the vital features of the Land Consolidation Scheme is to provide 2½ biswas of land for residential accommodation to each of such Harijan families in the villages as do not possess any land for the purpose.

A campaign for securing the right of temple entry for the Harijans was launched on 30th January, 1954. Two notable mixed groups of Harijans and Caste Hindus visited the Gauri Shankar temple in Chandni Chowk, and the Shiva Mandir at Wazirabad respectively.

It is proposed to start Harijan Welfare Centres where training will be given in useful handicrafts along with general educational and cultural facilities. Three such centres in the city and two in the rural areas will start functioning very soon.



Tribal Welfare in Madhya Pradesh :—An Adivasi colony at Lalmati in Surguja district.



Harijan procession at Bangalore in connection with the Harijan week.

MADHYA BHARAT

The Harijans and Adivasis together form nearly thirty per cent of the total population of Madhya Bharat. The Government of Madhya Bharat has formed a separate department for the development of these backward people.

All schools have been thrown open to them free of tuition-fee. An amount of Rs. 1,21,000 was provided last year for the award of scholarships to Adivasi students. Ten hostels have been started and at some places arrangements for providing mid-day meals in schools have been made. Basic system of education has been introduced in all primary schools in Adivasi areas.

Four centres at a cost of Rs. 89,130 have been started in four villages for teaching spinning and weaving.

Fifty Adult Education Centres have been organised.

Ten per cent of seats in all Government services have been reserved for Harijans and Adivasis. Government have decided to fill in half of the new vacancies from among Adivasis and Harijans till the limit of ten per cent is reached. Special concessions in the matter of age and qualifications for appointment to Government service have also been extended.

MADHYA PRADESH

The welfare of 24,77,024 tribal people in the State is a special responsibility of the Madhya Pradesh Government. Under the revised scheme, forty welfare centres are being organised in the scheduled areas. At each of these centres, there would be a primary school, a residential middle school, a maternity and child welfare centre, an anti-malaria squad, a stud-bull for cattle breeding, a small poultry farm, an instructor for training in cottage industries, a multi-purpose co-operative society, and a provision for arranging social and cultural activities. 257 primary and 35 middle schools, 34 hostels and 34 handicraft sheds exist at present all over the State's tribal areas. Instruction is imparted to 10,775 boys and 2,678 girls in primary schools, and 1,136 boys and 262 girls in middle schools.

The State Government have decided to open a Tribal Research Institute at Chhindwara.

In pursuance of the Tribal Welfare Scheme, the State Government decided to grant 950 scholarships for middle school and 450 scholarships for high school students during the year 1954-55.

Thirty multi-purpose co-operative societies are functioning in the Tribal areas and twenty cattle breeding centres have been opened.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

In Himachal Pradesh all temples receiving subventions from the Government enjoying muafis have been opened to the Scheduled Castes. All public places have also been opened to them. Instructions have been issued to Deputy Commissioners to maintain a list of villages and places in their respective areas where Harijans are still suffering from social disabilities. The Removal of Social Disabilities Act has been applied to Himachal Pradesh with effect from the 23rd May, 1951.

Occupancy rights have been conceded to 'Bethus' who generally belong to Scheduled Castes and who have been in possession of Government lands for more than three generations on payment of $1\frac{1}{4}$ times the land revenue. Further, full proprietary rights in such lands have been granted to 'Bethus' on payment of ten times the land revenue.

Preference is given to Harijans in the matter of grant of Nautors.

To safeguard the rights of Scheduled Castes in Government services, due representation has been given to them in all grades. Scheduled Castes are already in sufficient number in Class IV Services of the Government and Local bodies.

To promote education among Harijans, all Harijan students, including Scheduled Castes, have been exempted from payment of tuition fees in all stages of school education.

The Government of India under the scheme 'Removal of Untouchability' sanctioned during the year 1953-54 a sum of Rs. 35,000 which has been utilised on different schemes.

The Government of India also sanctioned a sum of Rs. 49,958 as grant-in-aid for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and the development of Scheduled areas in the State during the year under review.

MADRAS

With a view to explaining to the people the evils of untouchability and the need to eradicate them, Government have fixed the 30th of every month as the day for celebrating Harijan Day in every district in which important officials and non-officials take active interest. A sum of Rs. 1,99,400/- has been allotted by the Govt. of India to Madras for intensive propaganda for the abolition of untouchability, particularly in rural areas.

Expenditure on education of Harijans was Rs. 93.78 lakhs in 1952-53. Harijan pupils ranging from elementary education to professional courses are offered scholarships. They are also exempt from the payment of examination fees. Children studying in Harijan Welfare Schools are served with mid-day meals at a cost of Rs. 21.45 lakhs.

The Government have so far assigned lands at their disposal for 61,429 house-sites and acquired private lands for providing 59,351 house-sites. During the year 1951-52, 10,177 house-sites were acquired at a cost of Rs. 7.81 lakhs. House-sites are now given free of cost to all Harijans who do not own any land, except in cases where they can afford to pay the cost. In Tanjore district alone more than 25,000 sites have been allotted to the Harijans.

The Collectors of the districts have been empowered to sanction non-recurring expenditure up to a limit of Rs. 4,500/- in each case on miscellaneous measures connected with welfare of the Harijans, such as the construction of wells, pathways, latrines, raising the level of house-sites etc. The Director of Harijan Welfare has also been empowered to sanction expenditure on similar items up to a limit of Rs. 7,500/-.

Co-operative Societies have been organised for the benefit of Harijans.

In the matter of appointments to the public services, besides the general concessions of higher age limit and lowering of minimum general educational qualifications, the age rules and the qualification rules are relaxed in individual cases of deserving Harijan candidates.

During the last 5 years the expenditure has more than trebled rising from Rs. 41 lakhs in 1947-48 to Rs. 124.64 lakhs in 1952-53.

MYSORE

To improve the conditions of Scheduled Castes and Tribes, various ameliorative measures have been taken and a full-time Commissioner for Depressed Classes has been appointed. Government have provided a sum of Rs. 25 lakhs in the budget for 1954-55 for the improvement of the economic life of Scheduled Castes. Government are also constituting a Depressed Classes Amelioration Fund to ensure that no portion of the allotted grants lapses.

PEPSU

The Backward Classes Department awarded stipends to boys and girls of Scheduled Castes studying in secondary schools and colleges; those in primary classes were given lump sum grants for the purchase of books, stationery etc. Resident students were given boarding house allowances at Rs. 20/- p.m. in schools and Rs. 30/- in colleges in addition to the usual stipends which included tuition fees. The total number of boys and girls who benefited during the period under report was 19,557 and the amount disbursed on this account was Rs. 39,30,67/-.

Vocational training centres run by the Department continued imparting training in tailoring, hosiery, knitting, and midwifery.

98 new wells were completed and existing drinking water wells were repaired. Government subsidy amounting to Rs. 97,400 was given in 110 cases during the year 1952-53 for this work.

PUNJAB

For the promotion of education amongst the Backward Classes, Government of Punjab have provided the usual sum of Rs. 8 lakhs under the Harijan Welfare Scheme for stipends and fee concessions. Recently some more socially and economically backward castes/sects in the State came to be included among the Backward Classes. For them Government have made a separate provision of Rs. 1 lakh. In order to ensure that Scheduled Castes and other backward classes get their due share in Government services, it has been decided to adopt a block system of recruitment which should adequately safeguard their interests. Vacancies reserved for them have also been increased from 19 to 21 per cent.

Special measures are being taken to develop the Scheduled areas of Lahaul and Spiti and particularly to improve the living conditions of the people there. Development of irrigation, forests, cottage industries and educational facilities is also receiving adequate attention.

Since the repeal of the Criminal Tribes Act, Punjab Government has set up a special agency for the reclamation of the erstwhile criminal tribes. Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 1,57,040/- for the uplift of these tribes. Thirteen schemes for their educational, economic, and social betterment have so far been enforced.

RAJASTHAN

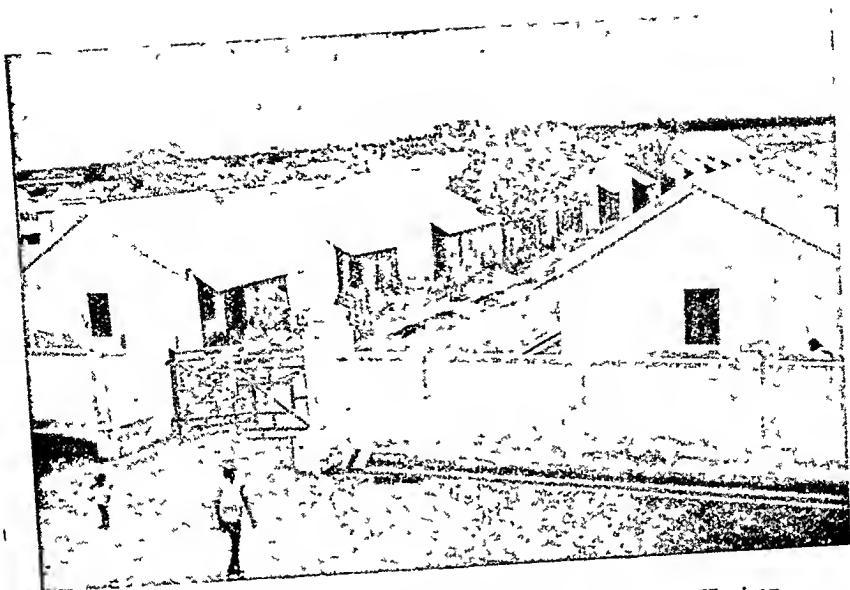
In the year 1953-54 a sum of Rs. 1,26,390 was distributed for purchase of books and slates etc. apart from a regular monthly grant of scholarships.

For amelioration of Scheduled Castes and Tribes, 16 agencies who received a grant-in-aid of Rs. 1,64,944/- are working at present. 1,473 wells were repaired and sunk at an expense of Rs. 6 lakhs.

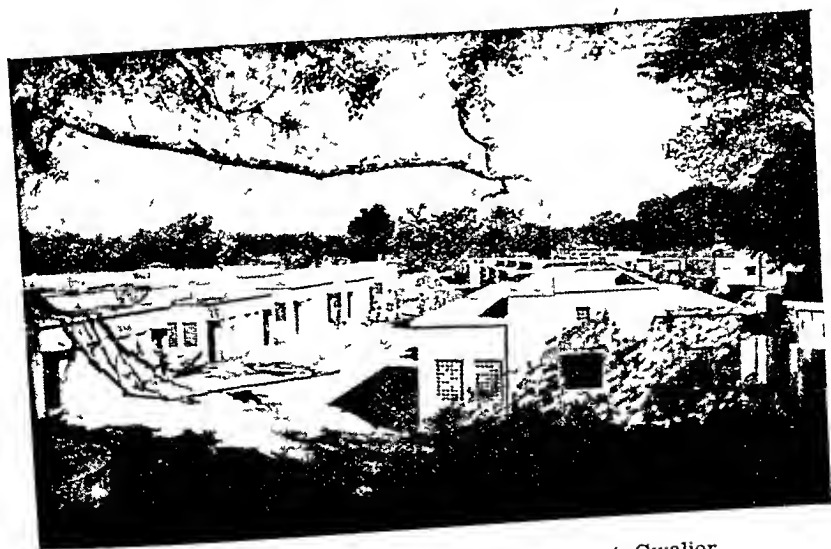
In the year 1953-54 a sum of Rs. 2,42,370 has been utilised for the benefit of the backward classes and for the year 1954-55 the Government of India have allotted an additional sum of Rs. 23.5 lakhs for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, Ex-Criminal Tribes and Scheduled Castes. The Government of Rajasthan have also made a similar provision in the State Budget.

SAURASHTRA

In order to give impetus to the work of ameliorating the conditions of Backward Classes, the Saurashtra Government has set up a Statutory Backward Class Board wherein public workers have been associated to carry out the various activities.



Harijan Welfare :—A view of the newly constructed Harijan Colony at Gwalior.



A sectional view of the Labour Colony at Gwalior.

A sum of Rs. 5,38,823/- has been spent up to March, 1954 under various schemes by the State Government and the Backward Class Board.

The Government of India sanctioned grants of Rs. 2,82,500/- for the Welfare Scheme in respect of ex-criminal tribes and the backward classes and for removal of untouchability.

The following targets have been achieved up to March, 1954 under the various schemes mentioned below :—

| Sr. No. | Name of the Scheme | Targets achieved. |
|---------|---|-------------------|
| (1) | Scholarships .. . | 3871 |
| (2) | Culture Centres .. . | 2100 |
| (3) | Grant-in-aid to Hostels .. . | 204 |
| (4) | Training to Harijan Girls in nursing .. . | 9 |
| (5) | Grant-in-aid to Harijan Housing Co-operative Association . . . | 120 |
| (6) | Loans for building houses of Harijans (except Bhangis) and other Backward Classes . . . | 122 |

During the year 1954-55 the following amounts have been provided in the Budget as grants-in-aid to the Backward Class Board.

| Sr. No. | Name of the Scheme | Amount provided in the Budget for the year 1954-55 |
|---------|--|--|
| (1) | Grant-in-aid to B. C. Board | Rs. 4,14,000/- |
| (2) | Grant-in-aid to B. C. Board partly or wholly financed by the Government of India | Rs. 4,18,000/- |
| (3) | Loans to B. C. Board | Rs. 2,00,000/- |

UTTAR PRADESH

In pursuance of their policy of promoting the welfare of Harijans and other backward classes, Govt. decided to increase the general reservation of seats for members of the Scheduled Castes in Government services and posts from 10 to 18 per cent.

A plan was prepared to settle a fair percentage of the Ex-Criminal Tribe families on agriculture so that they may get rid of their nomadic habits and unsocial influences.

Government informed the municipal boards that they would be in a position to give material financial assistance to them in case they took up construction of small residential quarters for sweepers. The Harijan Sahayak Department sanctioned a large number of stipends of Harijan and other backward students. The enrolment of Harijan students in educational institutions at all stages of education crossed the half-a-million mark. Education is free for Harijans right from the primary classes to University stage. Seats have been reserved for them in all schools and colleges in the ratio of one Harijan boy for six boys of other communities. The coaching classes started by the Government for

imparting training to Scheduled Caste students for the Secretariat and other examinations have been thrown open to students from backward classes too.

Government have made good the loss incurred by educational institutions in exempting Harijan students from payment of fees in pursuance of Government's policy. Government have also decided to open two more vocational training-cum-production centres for Scheduled Caste candidates at a cost of about Rs. 1,51,000|-

VINDHYA PRADESH

The Government of India sanctioned a scheme of Rs. 3 lakhs for the welfare of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and backward-classes in 1952 and Rs. 7,90,000 in the year 1953.

About 40 multi-purpose co-operative societies have been sanctioned for the benefit of these classes.

Government have also sanctioned a sum of Rs. 1,29,000 for construction of 300 miles of approach roads in Scheduled tribes areas.

The Government of India have allotted Rs. 30,000 for the welfare of ex-Criminal Tribes and Rs. 2 lakhs for the removal of untouchability in the State.

KILLICK INDUSTRIES LTD.

AGENTS FOR

THE KOHINOOR MILLS CO., LTD.

THE SHIVRAJPUR SYNDICATE LTD.

THE SURAT ELECTRICITY CO., LTD.

THE HINGIR RAMPUR COAL CO., LTD.

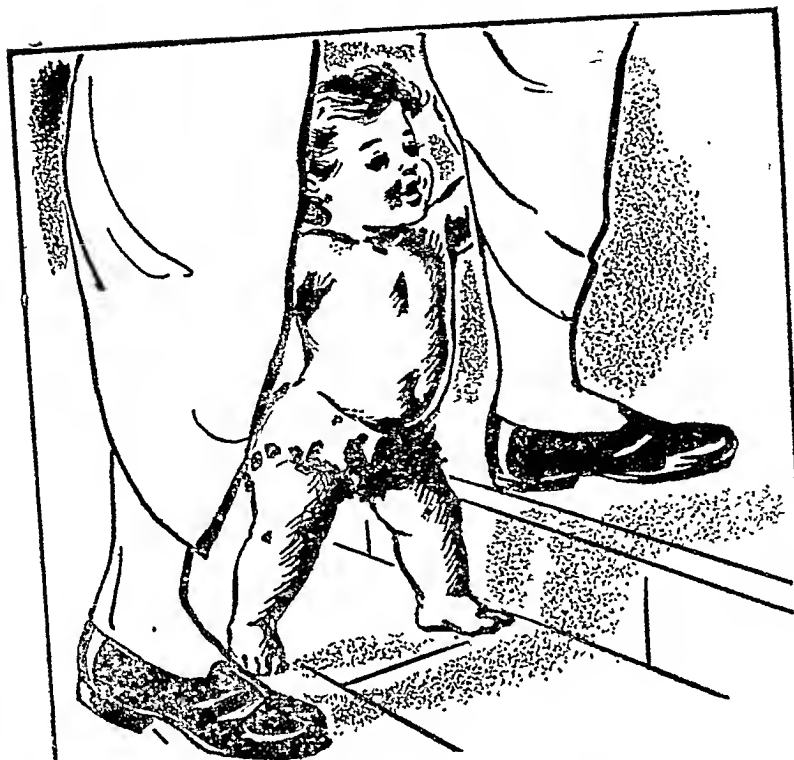
THE AHMEDABAD ELECTRICITY CO., LTD.

BOMBAY SUBURBAN ELECTRIC SUPPLY, LTD.

THE CENTRAL PROVINCES RAILWAYS CO., LTD.

JOINT MEMBERS, CEMENT AGENCIES LTD.
(MANAGING AGENTS, A.C.C. & PATIALA CEMENT
CO., LTD).

KILLICK BUILDING : HOME STREET : FORT, BOMBAY.



foothold on the future

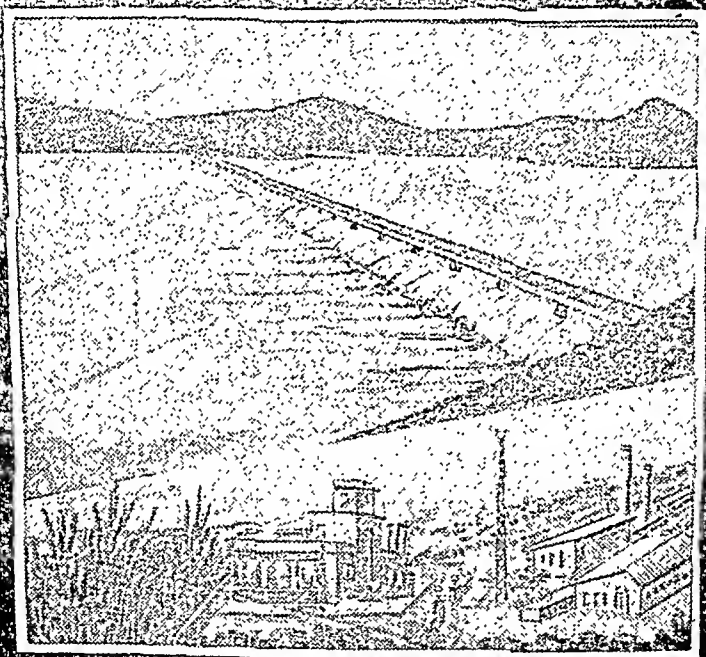
The working of the Community Projects is rapidly changing our rural life. Thousands of acres are being reclaimed and brought under cultivation. Cattle health, roads, tube wells, schools and hospitals are being looked after. The villages are becoming active units of national life. Right now, one out of every eight villages is receiving attention. Rural India is gaining a foothold on the future.

TEA

*In every sphere of activity,
a nice cup of tea is the
best reviver.*

A LINE OF FATE OF RAJASTHAN

CHAMBAL VALLEY SCHEME



will

- BRING 14 LAKH ACRES OF LAND UNDER IRRIGATION
- PRODUCE 50 LAKH MDS. OF CROPS EVERY YEAR
- ENSURE CONQUEST ON FAMINE AND SCARCITY
- SUPPLY MORE THAN 2 LAKH KWT OF POWER
- INDUSTRIALISE THE WHOLE REGION AND
- ADD TO THE PROSPERITY OF THE STATE

APPENDIX

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND STATE GOVERNMENTS

(as on the 15th August 1954)

INDIA

Area—1,269,640 sq. miles. Population—356,829,485

President—Dr. Rajendra Prasad

Vice-President—Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan

Cabinet Ministers

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Shri Jawaharlal Nehru (Prime Minister) | External Affairs and Defence. |
| 2. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad | Education and Natural Resources & Scientific Research. |
| 3. Shri Jagjiwan Ram | Communications. |
| 4. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur | Health. |
| 5. Shri Chintaman Dwarkanath Deshmukh | Finance. |
| 6. Shri Gulzarilal Nanda | Planning and Irrigation & Power. |
| 7. Dr. Kailas Nath Katju | Home Affairs and States. |
| 8. Shri Rafi Ahmad Kidwai | Food and Agriculture. |
| 9. Shri T. T. Krishnamachari | Commerce & Industry. |
| 10. Shri C. C. Biswas | Law & Minority Affairs. |
| 11. Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri | Railways and Transport. |
| 12. Sardar Swaran Singh | Works, Housing and Supply. |
| 13. Shri V. V. Giri | Labour. |
| 14. Shri K. C. Reddy | Production. |

Ministers of Cabinet Rank (But not members of Cabinet)

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 15. Shri Satya Narayan Sinha | Parliamentary Affairs. |
| 16. Shri Ajit Prasad Jain | Rehabilitation. |
| 17. Shri Mahavir Tyagi | Defence Organisation. |
| 18. Dr. B. V. Keskar | Information and Broadcasting. |
| 19. Shri D. P. Karmarkar | Commerce. |
| 20. Dr. Punjab Rao Deshmukh | Agriculture. |

Deputy Ministers

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 21. Shri Raj Bahadur | Communications. |
| 22. Shri K. D. Malaviya | Natural Resources & Scientific Research. |
| 23. Sardar Surjit Singh Maithia | Defence |

According to Rashtrapati Bhawan communique issued on August 11, 1954 Shri Ajit Prasad Jain is now a Member of the Cabinet.

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 24. Shri Balwant Nagesh Datar | Home. |
| 25. Shri Abid Ali | Labour. |
| 26. Shri Manilal Chaturbhai Shah | Finance. |
| 27. Shri Jagannathrao Krishna- rao Bhonsle | Rehabilitation. |
| 28. Shri O. V. Alagesan | Railways and Transport. |
| 29. Shrimati M. Chandrasekhar | Health. |
| 30. Shri Anil Kumar Chanda | External Affairs. |
| 31. Shri M. V. Krishnappa | Food and Agriculture. |
| 32. Shri Jai Sukh Lal Hathi | Irrigation and Power. |
| 33. Shri Satish Chandra | Defence. |
| 34. Shri Arun Chandra Guha | Finance. |

Parliamentary Secretaries

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 35. Shrimati Lakshmi N. Menon | Attached to the Minister of External Affairs. |
| 36. Shri Shanawaz Khan | Attached to the Minister of Railways. |
| 37. Shri Jogendra Nath Hazarika | Attached to the Minister of External Affairs. |
| 38. Shri B. R. Bhagat | Attached to the Minister of Finance. |
| 39. Shri Rajaram Girdharilal Dubey | Attached to the Minister of Production. |
| 40. Shri Sadath Ali Khan | Attached to the Minister of External Affairs. |
| 41. Dr. K. L. Shrimali | Attached to the Minister of Education. |
| 42. Dr. Mono Mohon Das | Attached to the Minister of Education. |
| 43. Shri G. Rajagopalan | Attached to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting. |

AJMER

Area—2,417 sq. miles Population—693,372

Chief Commissioner—Shri M. K. Kripalani

| | |
|--|---|
| 1. Shri Haribhau Upadhyaya (Chief Minister) | General Administration. |
| 2. Shri Bal Krishna Kaul | Home, Finance and P.W.D. |
| 3. Shri Brij Mohan Lal Sharma | Education, Revenue and Local Self-Government. |

ANDHRA

Area—67,000 sq. miles. Population—21,281,000

Governor—Shri C. M. Trivedi

| | |
|---|--|
| 1. Shri T. Prakasam (Chief Minister) | Public Services, Political, Information and Publicity. |
|---|--|

LIST OF MINISTERS

359

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2. Shri N. Sanjeeva Reddy (Deputy Chief Minister) | Home, Police, Law and Order, Passports, State Legislature Elec- tions, Public Works and Trans- port. |
| 3. Shri K. Koti Reddy | Revenue, Food and Registration. |
| 4. Shri T. Viswanatham | Finance, Law, Religious Endow- ments, Scheduled Area and Tribes. |
| 5. Shri D. Sanjeeviah | Planning, Public Health, Co-opera- tion, Labour and Harijan Wel- fare. |
| 6. Shri S. B. P. Pattabhirama Rao | Education, Industries, Excise, Pro- hibition and Women's Welfare and Commercial Taxes. |
| 7. Shri P. Thinma Reddy | Local Administration, Agriculture, Forests, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries. |

ASSAM

Area—85,012 sq. miles. Population—9,043,707

Governor—Shri Jairamdas Daulatram

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Shri Bishnuram Medhi (Chief Minister) | Minister-in-Charge of Appoint- ment, Home, Confidential, Tribal Areas, Development (Community Projects), etc. |
| 2. Shri Motiram Bora | Finance, Revenue & Land Reforms. |
| 3. Shri Siddhinath Sarma | Public Works and Transport. |
| 4. Shri Omeo Kumar Das | Education and Labour. |
| 5. Shri Mohendra Mohan Choudhury | Food and Agriculture. |
| 6. Shri Baidyanath Mookherjee | Supply and Procurement, Planning, Relief and Rehabilitation, Judi- cial. |
| 7. Shri Rupnath Brahma | Medical and Public Health. |
| 8. Shri Ramnath Das | Forest and Electricity, Legislative. |
| 9. Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy | Excise, Jails and Registration. |
| 10. Maulavi Abdul Matlib Mazumdar | Local Self-Government and Veteri- nary. |

Deputy Ministers

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 11. Shri Hareswar Das | Revenue and Relief & Rehabilita- tion. |
| 12. Shri Purnananda Chetla | Education and Labour. |

Parliamentary Secretaries

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. Shri Mohikanta Das | Parliamentary Affairs, Veterinary and Local Self-Government. |
| 2. Shri Robin Kakoti | Cottage Industries, Community Projects, Co-operative, Rural Development, Food and Agriculture. |
| 3. Shri Chongthu Saprawanga | Public Works, Transport, Medical and Public Health. |

* Figures of Part B Tribal Areas of Assam are not included.

BHOPAL

Area—6,878 sq. miles. Population—836,474

Chief Commissioner—Shri Bhagwan Sahai

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Shri Shankar Dayal Sharma (Chief Minister) | General Administration, Home, Education, Revenue, Law and Justice, Planning and Development, Finance, Labour, Commerce and Industry, Excise and Agriculture. |
| 2. Shri Inayatullah Khan Tarzi Mashriqui | Food and Civil Supplies, Health, Local Self-Government, Public Works and Irrigation. |

Deputy Minister

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 3. Shri Umrao Singh | Forests, Co-operatives and Harijan Uplift. |
|---------------------|--|

BIHAR

Area—70,330 sq. miles. Population—40,225,947

Governor—Shri R. R. Diwakar

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Dr. Sri Krishna Sinha (Chief Minister) | Appointment, Political. |
| 2. Dr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha | Finance, Labour and Agriculture. |
| 3. Shri Ram Charitar Singh | Irrigation and Electricity. |
| 4. Shri Badri Nath Verma | Education. |
| 5. Shri Krishna Ballabh Sahay | Revenue and Excise. |
| 6. Shri Dip Narayan Sinha | Co-operative and Veterinary. |
| 7. Shri Mahesh Prasad Sinha | Industries, Transport and Information. |
| 8. Shri Shiva Nandan Prasad Mandal | Judicial, Legislative. |
| 9. Shri Muhammad Shafi | Public Works, Public Health Engineering. |

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|---|
| 10. | Shri Shah Muhammad Ozair Munemi | Jails, Relief & Rehabilitation. |
| 11. | Shri Bhola Paswan | Local Self-Government, Gram Panchayat, Welfare. |
| 12. | Shri Harinath Mishra | Civil Supplies, Price Control and Health. |

Deputy Ministers

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------|---|
| 13. | Shri Nirapada Mukherjee | Local Self-Government, Relief and Rehabilitation. |
| 14. | Shri Birchand Patel | Agriculture & Labour. |
| 15. | Shri Abdul Ahad Muhammad Noor | Cottage Industries and Revenue. |

Parliamentary Secretaries

1. Shri Bhagirath Singh
2. Shri Chandrika Ram
3. Shri. Devendranath Mahto

BOMBAY

Area—111,434 sq. miles. Population—35,956,150.

Governor—Shri Girja Shankar Bajpai

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Shri Morarji R. Desai (Chief Minister) | Home, Political and Services. |
| 2. | Shri B. S. Hiray | Revenue, Agriculture and Forests. |
| 3. | Shri Dinkarrao N. Desai | Education and Law. |
| 4. | Shri Jivraj N. Mehta | Finance, Prohibition and Industries. |
| 5. | Shri M. P. Patil | Local Self-Government and Co-operation. |
| 6. | Shri M. M. Naik Nimbalkar | Public Works. |
| 7. | Shri G. D. Tapase | Rehabilitation, Fisheries and Backward Classes. |
| 8. | Shri Shantilal H. Shah | Labour and Health. |
| 9. | Shri Y. B. Chavan | Civil Supplies |

Deputy Ministers

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. | Shrimati Indumati Chamanlal | Education |
| 2. | Shri B. J. Patil | Public Works. |
| 3. | Shri D. N. Wandrekar | Backward Classes. |
| 4. | Shri K. F. Patil | Agriculture and Forests. |
| 5. | Shri B. D. Jatti | Public Health. |
| 6. | Shri B. D. Deshmukh | Local Self-Government and Co-operation. |
| 7. | Shri T. R. Naravane | Prohibition. |
| 8. | Shri M. G. Faki | Revenue |
| 9. | Shri V. K. Sathe | Civil Supplies. |

THE SEVENTH YEAR OF FREEDOM

COORG

Area—1,585 sq. miles. Population—229,405

Chief Commissioner—Shri Daya Singh Bedi

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Shri C. M. Poonacha (Chief Minister) | Revenue, Excise, Planning and Development. |
| 2. Shri K. Mallappa | Home, Education, Health and Justice. |

DELHI

Area—578 sq. miles. Population—1,744,072

Chief Commissioner—Shri A. D. Pandit

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Ch. Brahm Perkash (Chief Minister) | General Administration, Appointments, Jails, Revenue, Taxation, Finance, Local Self-Government and Education. |
| 2. Dr. Sushila Nayar | Health, Transport, Relief and Rehabilitation |
| 3. Shri Gopi Nath Aman | Development & Planning, Press and Publicity, Industry & Labour, Law, Judicial and Legislative. |

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Area—10,451 sq. miles. Population—983,367

Lt. Governor—Maj. Gen. Himat Singhji

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Dr. Y. S. Parmar (Chief Minister) | General Administration, Finance, Revenue and Excise, Agriculture, Law and Justice, Forest, Legislative, Public Information. |
| 2. Shri Padam Dev | Police & Jails, Planning, Development and Co-ordination, Education, Co-operative, Panchayats, Industries and Civil Supplies. |
| 3. Shri Gauri Prasad | P.W.D. Medical and Public Health, Local Self-Government and Transport. |

HYDERABAD

Area—82,168 sq. miles. Population—18,655,108

Rajpramukh—H.E.H. the Nizam of Hyderabad

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Shri B. Ramakrishna Rao (Chief Minister) | General Administration, Information, Social Service and Backward Classes. |
| 2. Shri Digambar Rao Govind Rao Bindu | Home, Law & Rehabilitation. |
| 3. Shri Konda Venkata Ranga Reddy | Revenue, Excise and Forests. |
| 4. Shri Vinayak Rao Koratkar Vidyalkar | Finance, Statistics, Customs and Commerce and Industries. |

5. Dr. Gopal Subbukrishna Melkote Public Works Department and Labour.
6. Nawab Mehdi Nawaz Jung Public Health and Medical, Rural Reconstruction.
7. Dr. Marri Chenna Reddy Supply and Agriculture, Development and Planning.
8. Shri Gopal Rao Ekbote Local Self-Government, Education, Legislative.

Deputy Ministers

9. Shri Shankar Deo Veda- Social Service & Backward Classes.
10. Shri Srinivas Rao Ram Rao Home.
11. Shri P. Hanumanth Rao Revenue and Excise.
12. Shri Virupakshappa Commerce and Industries and Customs
13. Shri M. S. Rajalingam Public Works and Labour.
14. Shri Bhagwantrao Gambir Rural Reconstruction.
15. Shri Arigay Ramaswamy Supplies.
16. Shmt. Sangam Laxmi Bai Education.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Area—92,780 sq. miles. Population—4,410,000

Sadar-i-Riyasat—Yuvraj Karan Singh

1. Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad (Prime Minister) General Administration, Law and Judiciary, Planning and Community Projects, Police and Transport, etc.
2. Shri G. M. Sadiq Education, Health, Publicity, Information and Jails.
3. Shri G. L. Dogra Finance, Audit, and Accounts, Customs and Excise, Income Tax and Banking.
4. Shri Shamlal Saraf. Development, Industries, Forests, Local Self-Government, Tourism and Emporia.
5. Shri Mir Qasim Revenue, Agriculture, Rural Development and Co-operation, Relief and Rehabilitation.

Deputy Ministers

6. Shri D. P. Dhar Home.
7. Shri G. R. Renzu Education and Health.
8. Shri Kaushak Bakula Frontier Affairs.
9. Shri A. U. Mir Development.
10. Shri Piyara Singh Revenue.

MADHYA BHARAT

Area—46,478 sq. miles. *Population*—7,954,155

Rajpramukh—The Maharaja of Gwalior

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Shri Mishrilal Gangwal (Chief Minister) | General Administration and Appointments. |
| 2. Shri Shamlal Pandviya | Revenue, Local Self-Government, Food, Civil Supplies, Government Roadways. |
| 3. Shri Prem Singh | Medical and Public Health, and Tribal Welfare, Scheduled Caste and Forests. |
| 4. Shri Manoharsingh Mehta | Home and Public Works. |
| 5. Shri V. V. Dravid | Development and Labour, Housing. |
| 6. Shri Sitaram Surajmal Jajoo | Law, Justice, Commerce, Industries and Information. |
| 7. Shri Sobhagyamal Jain | Finance. |
| 8. Shri Narsingh Rao Dixit | Education, Relief and Rehabilitation. |

Deputy Ministers

- | | |
|---|---|
| 9. Shri Radhavallabh Vijaya- vargiya | Food and Civil Supplies, Transport and Jails. |
| 10. Shri Sawai Singh Sisodia | Development and Labour. |
| 11. Shri Sajjan Singh Vishnar | Harijan and Tribal Welfare. |

Parliamentary Secretary

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Shri Shiv Bhanu Solanki | Attached to the Chief Minister. |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|

MADHYA PRADESH

Area—130,272 sq. miles. *Population*—21,247,533

Governor—Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Shri Ravi Shankar Shukla (Chief Minister) | General Administration, Co-ordination, Appointments, Police and Publicity; Development and Planning. |
| 2. Shri D. K. Mehta | Industries and Commerce, Law and Forests. |
| 3. Shri P. K. Deshmukh | Education, Local Self-Government and Indian Languages. |
| 4. Shri Brijlal Biyani | Finance and Separate Revenue and Registration. |
| 5. Shri Shankarlal Tiwari | Agriculture, Veterinary, Co-operatives and Rural Development. |
| 6. Shri M. S. Kannamwar | Public Health and Jails. |

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 7. Shri Naresh Chandra Singh | Tribal Welfare, Public Works and Electricity. |
| 8. Shri Din Dayal Gupta | Food, Labour and Rehabilitation. |
| 9. Shri B. A. Mandloi | Revenue, Survey and Settlement, Land Records and Civil Supplies. |

Deputy Ministers

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 10. Shri P. L. Dhagat | Finance. |
| 11. Shri Birendra Bahadur Singh | Home. |
| 12. Shri Abdul Quadir Siddiqui | Education. |
| 13. Shri Ganesram Anant | Agriculture. |
| 14. Shri Vasant Rao P. Naik | Revenue |
| 15. Shrimati P. B. Jakatdar | Commerce and Industry. |

MADRAS*Governor—Shri Sri Prakasa*

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Shri K. Kamaraj Nadar (Chief Minister) | Home (Public and Police). |
| 2. Shri A. B. Shetty | Medical and Public Health, Co-operation and Housing. |
| 3. Shri M. Bhaktavatsalam | Agriculture, Rural Welfare, Community Projects, Forests, Industries and Labour, Women's Welfare. |
| 4. Shri C. Subramaniam | Finance, Education, Information and Publicity and Law. |
| 5. Shri M. A. Manickavelu Naicker | Revenue and Rural Development. |
| 6. Raja Sri Shanmuga Rajeswara Sethupathi | Public Works, Stationery and Printing. |
| 7. Shri B. Parameswaran | Transport, Harijan Uplift, Registration and Prohibition. |
| 8. Shri S. S. Ramaswami Padayachi | Local Administration. |

MYSORE*Area—29,489 sq. miles. Population—9,074,972**Rajpramukh—The Maharaja of Mysore.*

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Shri K. Hanumanthaiya (Chief Minister) | Finance, Political and Civil Services. |
| 2. Shri A. G. Ramachandra Rao | Law, Education, Legislative, Prisons, Labour, Elections. |
| 3. Shri T. Channiah | Public Health, Local Self-Government, Excise, Rural Development. |
| 4. Shri Kadidal Manjappa | Revenue and Public Works, Sales-Tax |

THE SEVENTH YEAR OF FREEDOM

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 5. Shri H. Siddaveerappa | Home, Industries, Civil Supplies and Food. |
| 6. Dr. R. Nagan Gowda | Agriculture, Forests, Relief and Rehabilitation, Co-operation, Veterinary. |

ORISSA

Area—60,136 sq. miles. Population—14,645,946

Governor—Shri P. Kumaraswami Raja

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Shri Nabakrishna Chaudhuri (Chief Minister) | Cabinet, Development, Works, River Valley Development, Relief and Rehabilitation and Public Relations. |
| 2. Shri Radhanath Rath | Finance and Education. |
| 3. Shri Satyapriya Mohanty | Home, Law and Health. |
| 4. Shri Sadasiva Tripathy | Revenue, Excise and Supply. |
| 5. Raja Bahadur Sri Kishore Chandra Deo Bhanj | Industries and Transport. |
| 6. Shri Sunaram Soren | Tribal and Rural Welfare, Labour and Commerce. |

Deputy Ministers

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 7. Shmt. Basanta Manjari Devi | Health. |
| 8. Shri Bhairab Chandra Mohanty. | Works. |
| 9. Shri Nilamani Routray | Home. |
| 10. Shri Tirthabasi Pradhan | Transport and Forest. |
| 11. Shri Krupanidhi Naik | Supply and Agriculture. |
| 12. Shri Santanu Kumar Das | Local Self-Government, Co-operation and Fisheries. |
| 13. Shri Anup Singh Deo | Public Relations, Relief and Rehabilitation and Animal Husbandry. |

PEPSU

Area—10,078 sq. miles. Population—3,493,685

Rajpramukh—H.H. the Maharaja of Patiala

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Col. Radhbir Singh (Chief Minister) | General Administration, Political, Information, Police, Jails, Justice, Press, Law and Legislation, Punjabi and Backward Classes, Transport and Dharam Arth. |
| 2. Shri Brish Bhan | Finance, Education, Sales Tax and Excise, Industries and Supplies. |
| 3. General Shivdev Singh | P.W.D., Local Self-Government, Labour and Health. |

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 4. Sardar Harcharan Singh | Revenue, Rehabilitation, Survey and Settlement. |
| 5. Raja Surendra Singh | Planning, Development, Agriculture, Forest, Co-operative and Archives and Museums. |

Deputy Ministers

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 6. Shri Sadhu Ram | Attached to the Chief Minister. |
| 7. S. Prem Singh Prem | Attached to the Revenue Minister. |
| 8. Major Amir Singh | Attached to the P.W.D. Minister. |

Parliamentary Secretary

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Shrimati Chandrawati | Attached to the Chief Minister. |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|

PUNJAB

Area—37,378 sq. miles. Population—12,641,205

Governor—Shri C. P. N. Singh

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar (Chief Minister) | General Administration, Law and Order, Panchayats, Food and Civil Supplies. |
| 2. S. Pratap Singh Kairon | Land Revenue, Development and Consolidation of Holdings. |
| 3. Ch. Lehri Singh | Irrigation, Electricity and Co-operative Societies. |
| 4. S. Ujjal Singh | Finance, Relief and Rehabilitation and Industries. |
| 5. Shri Jagat Narain | Education, Health and Transport. |
| 6. Shri Gurbachan Singh Bajwa | P.W.D., Capital Project and Local Government. |
| 7. Ch. Sunder Singh | Labour, Stationery and Printing. Excise and Taxation, and Scheduled Castes and Backward classes. |

Chief Parliamentary Secretary

- | |
|---------------------------------|
| 1. Shri Prabodh Chandra, M.L.A. |
|---------------------------------|

RAJASTHAN

Area—130,207 sq. miles. Population—15,290,797

Maharajpramukh—H. H. the Maharana of Mewar

Rajpramukh—H. H. the Maharaja of Jaipur

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Shri Jai Narain Vyas (Chief Minister) | General Supervision and Co-ordination, Finance and Judicial Department. |
| 2. Tikaram Paliwal | Revenue. |
| 3. Shri Mohanlal Sukhadia | Agriculture. |

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 4. Shri Bhola Nath | Public Works, Education and Transport. |
| 5. Shri Amrit Lal Yadav | Forest, Co-operation, Relief and Rehabilitation. |
| 6. Shri Ram Karan Joshi | Labour and Local Self-Government. |
| 7. Shri Bhogi Lal Pandya | Food, Civil Supplies and Irrigation. |
| 8. Shri Kumbha Ram Arya | Commerce and Industries; Health. |

Deputy Ministers

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Shri Chandanmal Vaid | Finance and Judicial Department. |
| 2. Shri Nar Singh Kachawah | General Administration and Home. |

SAURASHTRA

Area—25,415 sq. miles. Population—4,137,359

Rajpramukh—H.H. the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Shri Uchharangrai Navalshankar Dhebar (Chief Minister) | Cabinet, Co-ordination, Political, Revenue, Scarcity, Services and Planning. |
| 2. Shri Rasiklal Umedchand Parikh | Home, Information and Transport. |
| 3. Shri Manharlal Mansukhlal Shah | Finance, Excise, Prohibition and Registration. |
| 4. Shri Jadavji Keshavji Modi | Education, Public Works and Irrigation. |
| 5. Shri Dayashanker Trikamji Dave | Law, Justice, Medical, Public Health and Forests. |
| 6. Shri Ganshambhai Chhotalal Oza | Rehabilitation, Food, Industries, Commerce, Civil Supplies and Labour. |
| 7. Shri Ratubhai Mulshanker Adani | Development, Agriculture, Veterinary, Backward Classes, Rural Industries, Local Self-Government, Gram Panchayats and Co-operation. |

TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

Area—9,144 sq. miles. Population—9,280,425

Rajpramukh—H. H. the Maharaja of Travancore.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Shri A. Thanu Pillai (Chief Minister) | General Administration, Law and Order, Planning, Justice, Information, Education, Food and Civil Supplies, Legislation, Elections, Places of Public Worship, etc. |
|---|---|

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|-------------------------------|---|
| 2. Shri P. S. Nataraja Pillai | Finance, Land Revenue, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Industries, and Commerce, Geology and Mining, Forests, Excise and Resettlement. |
| 3. Shri A. Atchuthan | Public Works, Electricity, Transport, Communications and Ports and Railways. |
| 4. Shri P. K. Kunju | Public Health, Municipalities, Rural Uplift, Harijan Uplift and Protection of Backward Communities, Labour, Registration. Co-operation and Housing. |

UTTAR PRADESH

Area—113,409 sq. miles. Population—63,215,742

Governor—Shri K. M. Munshi

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant (Chief Minister) | General Administration, Planning and Co-operation. |
| 2. Hafiz Muhammad Ibrahim | Finance and Power. |
| 3. Dr. Sampurnand | Home and Labour. |
| 4. Shri Hukum Singh | Industries and Relief and Rehabilitation. |
| 5. Shri Girdhari Lal | Public Works Department. |
| 6. Shri Chandra Bhanu Gupta | Civil Supplies and Health. |
| 7. Shri Charan Singh | Revenue and Agriculture. |
| 8. Syed Ali Zaheer | Justice and Excise. |
| 9. Shri Hargovind Singh | Education and Harijan Uplift. |
| 10. Shri Mohan Lal Gautam | Local Self-Government. |
| 11. Shri Kamalapati Tripathi | Information and Irrigation. |
| 12. Shri Vichitra Narain Sharma | Transport. |

Deputy Ministers

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Shri Mangla Prasad | Parliamentary Affairs and Co-operation. |
| 2. Shri Jagmohan Singh Negi | Forests. |
| 3. Shri Phool Singh | Planning. |
| 4. Shri Jagan Prasad Rawat | Agriculture. |
| 5. Shri Muzaffar Hassan | Jails. |
| 6. Shri Chaturbhuj Sharma | P.W.D. |
| 7. Ram Murti | Irrigation. |

Parliamentary Secretaries

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Shri Kripa Shankar | Attached to L.S.G. Minister. |
| 2. Shri Banarsi Das | Attached to Civil Supplies and Health Minister. |
| 3. Dr. Sita Ram | Attached to Education Minister. |

THE SEVENTH YEAR OF FREEDOM

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 4. Shri Dwarika Prasad Maurya | Attached to Revenue and Agriculture Minister. |
| 5. Shri Rauf Jafri | Attached to Industries and Rehabilitation Minister. |
| 6. Shri Baldeo Singh Arya | Attached to Civil Supplies and Health. |

VINDHYA PRADESH

Area—23,603 sq. miles. Population—3,574,690

Lt. Governor—Shri K. Santhanam

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Shri Shambhunath Shukla (Chief Minister) | General Administration, Appointments, Excise, Sales Tax, Revenue and Education. |
| 2. Shri Lalaram Bajpai | Home, Local Self-Government, Co-operation, Rural Development and Cottage Industries. |
| 3. Shri Gopal Sharan Singh | Planning, Agriculture, Irrigation, P.W.D., Judicial. |
| 4. Shri Dan Bahadur Singh | Commerce and Industries, Labour, Transport, Civil Supplies and Forests. |
| 5. Shri Mahendra Kumar Manav | Finance, Medical and Public Health, Information, Social Service, Relief and Rehabilitation, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. |

WEST BENGAL

Area—30,775 sq. miles. Population—24,810,308

Governor—Dr. H. C. Mookerjee

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Shri Bidhan Chandra Roy (Chief Minister) | Home, Commerce and Industries and Development. |
| 2. Shri Jadabendra Nath Panja | Cottage and Small-scale Industries. |
| 3. Shri Hem Chandra Naskar | Forests and Fisheries. |
| 4. Shri Ajoy Kumar Mukerji | Irrigation and Waterways. |
| 5. Shri Shyama Prasad Burman | Excise. |
| 6. Shri Khagendranath Das Gupta | Works and Buildings. |
| 7. Shri Radhagobinda Roy | Tribal Welfare. |
| 8. Shri Iswar Das Jalan | Local Self-Government. |
| 9. Shrimati Renuka Ray | Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation. |
| 10. Shri Prafulla Chandra Sen | Food, Relief and Supplies. |
| 11. Shri Pannalal Bose | Education. |
| 12. Shri Rafiuddin Ahmed | Agriculture & Co-operative Credit. |
| 13. Shri Kalipada Mukherjee | Labour. |
| 14. Shri Satyendra Kumar Basu | Judicial, Legislative, Land and Land Revenue. |

Ministers of State

1. Shri Amulyadhan Mukho- Medical and Public Health.
padhyaya
2. Shri Jiban Ratan Dhar Jails.

Deputy Ministers

1. Shri S. C. Ray Singha Transport.
2. Shri S. C. Ghosh Malik Defence Branch of the Home
Department.
3. Shri Gopika Bilas Sen Publicity and Public Relations.
4. Shri Tarun Kanti Ghosh Townships and Relief.
5. Shri Sourindra Mohan Misra Commerce and Industry.
6. Shri Tenzing Wangdi Tribal Welfare.
7. Shri Bijesh Chandra Sen Rehabilitation.
8. Shri Smarajit Ban'dopadhyaya Food.
9. Shri Rajanikanta Pramanik Supplies.
10. Shri Abdus Shakur Agriculture.
11. Shri Debendra Chandra Dey Parliamentary Affairs.
12. Shri Chittaranjan Roy Co-operation.
13. Shrimati Purabi Mukherjee Women's Education.
14. Shri Shiva Kumar Rai Labour.

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| | | |
|---------------------------|----|------------------|
| Authorised | .. | Rs. 1,00,00,000 |
| Subscribed | .. | Rs. 72,00,000 |
| Paid-Up | .. | Rs. 57,80,000 |
| Reserve & Other Funds | .. | Rs. 76,00,000 |
| Deposits as on (31-12-53) | .. | Rs. 21.85 Crores |

All kinds of Banking Business transacted.

N. GADALA IYER
Secretary.

अपने उद्योग से

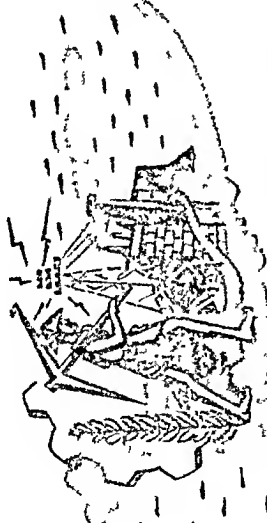


राजस्थान ने
प्रधान मंत्री को
१९५२ ४७
१९५३ - १९६७
स्कूल भेंट किये हैं।

अपनी उन्नति

सामुदायिक विकास - राजस्थान

WEST BENGAL MARCHES AHEAD



EDUCATION

West Bengal will spend Rs 6 crore 66 lakh on Education this year. There are 15 lakh children attending primary schools. There are 225 Basic Schools, 37 Technical Institutes and 7 Polytechnics.

MEDICAL RELIEF

From Rs 3 crore in 1948-49, expenses on Medical Relief have gone up to Rs 5 crore this year, or Rs 2,210 per capita. There are 171 Health Centres with 2,234 beds. Hospital beds—20,334.

AGRICULTURE

Spent in 1948-49 Rs 1,41,11,000; Budget for 1951-55 Rs 2,22,97,000. 17,300 acres reclaimed by drainage by pumps in Sonarpur-Arpanch yielded 650,000 mds. of paddy, 61,879 acres under Jayneso methods yielded 11,72,000 mds. of paddy last year.

IRRIGATION

Spent in 1948-49 Rs 92,19,000; Budget for 1951-55 Rs 2,27,59,000. Over 150 miles of Mayurakshi Project canals to water 1,00,000 acres completed.

ROADS

Spent in 1948-49 Rs 1,51,59,000; Budget for 1951-55 Rs 6,18,31,000. 1,150 miles of new roads and 23 big bridges built so far.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

2,301 acres reclaimed in 11 Blocks covering 1,416 sq. miles. Farmers given 3,657 mds. of seeds. Villagers' Voluntary aid (in terms of money) Rs 4,06,000.

THE GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

- MACHINE TOOLS
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- WATER SYSTEMS
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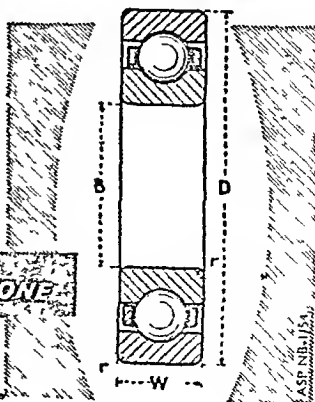


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| DELHI — MATHURA | ALLAHABAD — |
| DELHI — AGRA | VINDHYACHAL |
| MORADABAD — NAINITAL | ALLAHABAD — RAJAPUR |
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| | AZAMGARH-MAU |

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LAND REFORMS IN INDIA

by

H. D. MALAVIYA

Pp 461, demi octavo

Price Rs. 3

SOME OPINIONS

All India Radio Book Review (by Shri Tarlok Singh, I.C.S. Joint

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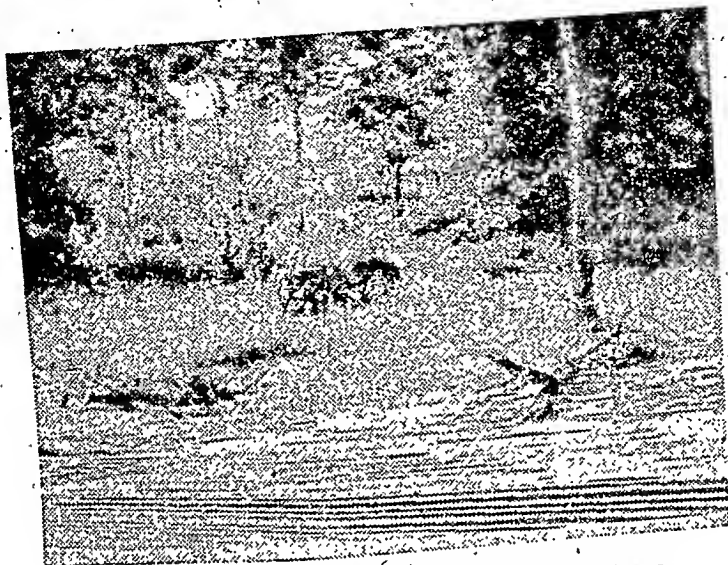
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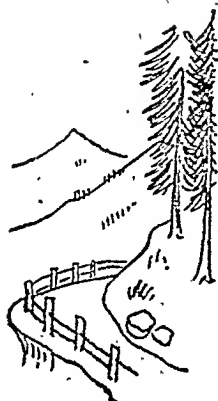
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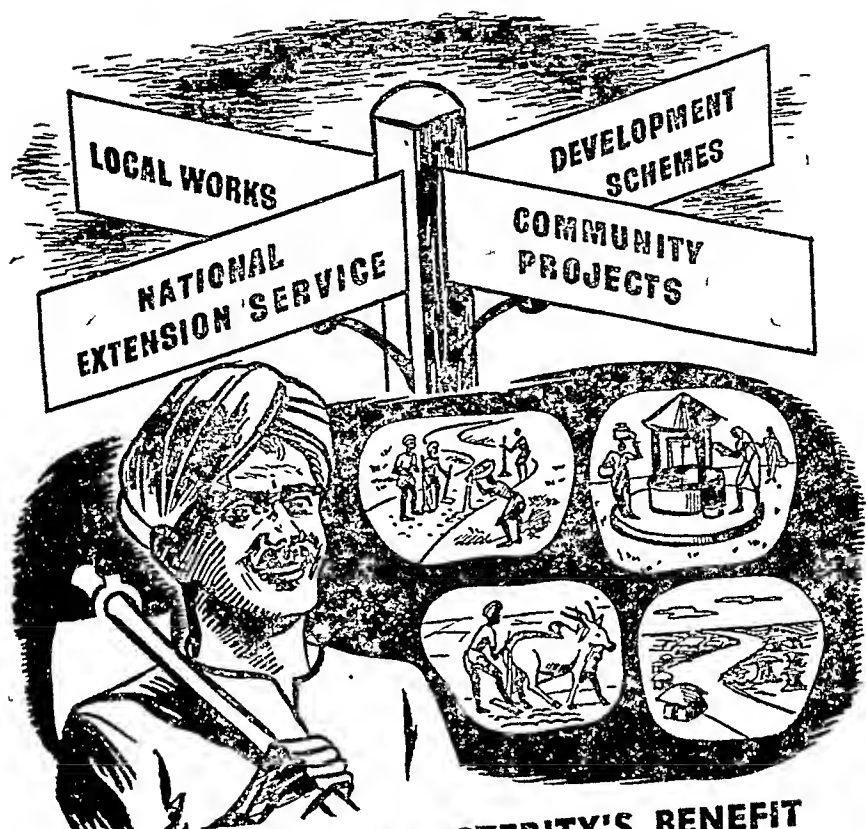
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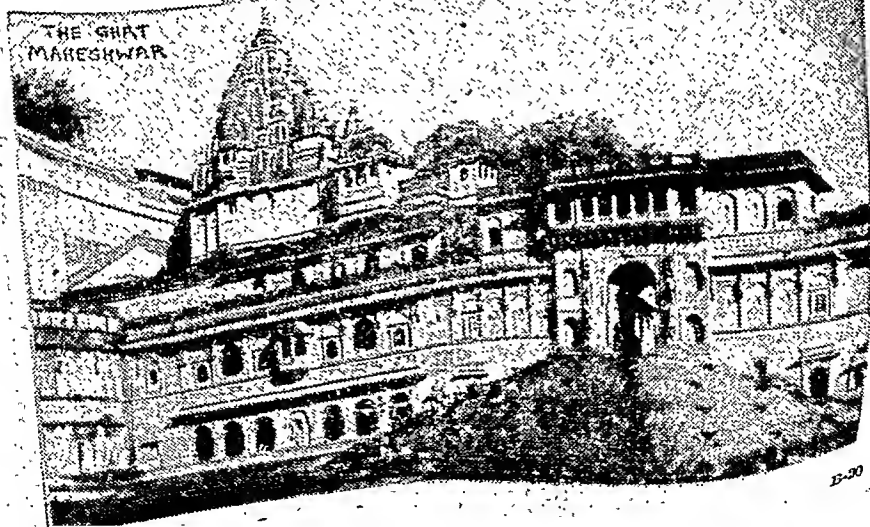
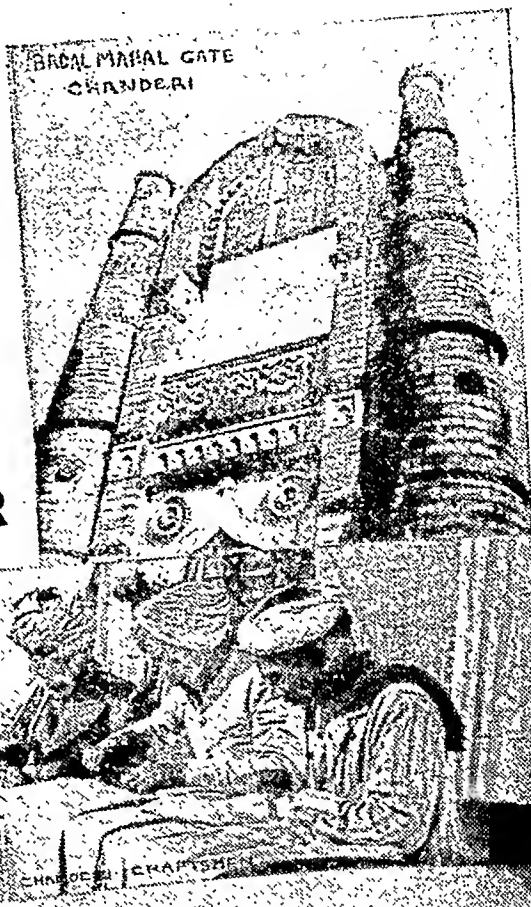
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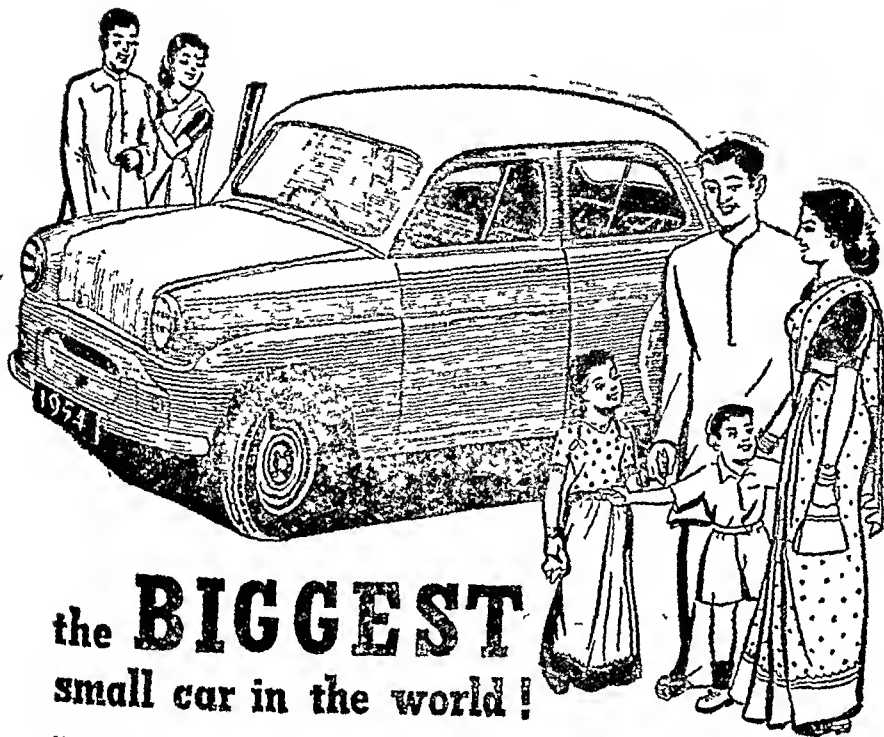
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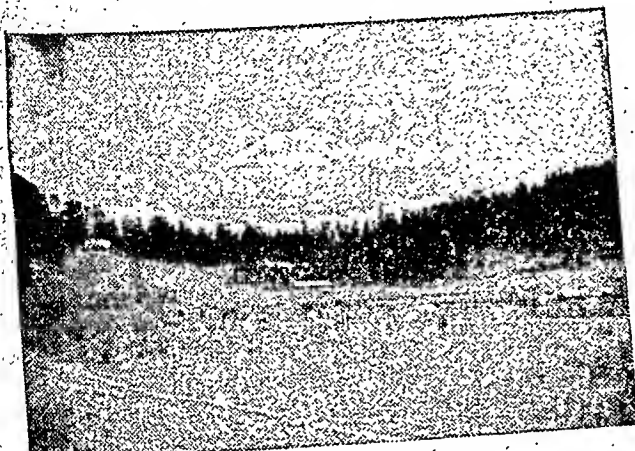
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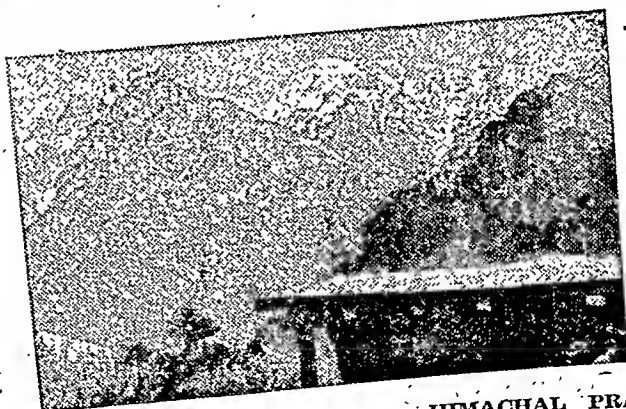
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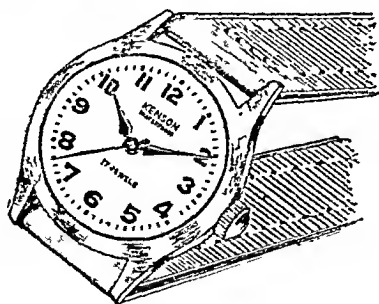
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